

Arafat leaves Geneva

GENEVA (R) — Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat left Wednesday after talks with U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar but without meeting Syrian Vice-President Rifaat Al Assad. Mr. Arafat left for Tunis after a 24-hour visit to Geneva where he had talks with the U.N. chief on a new Middle East peace initiative (See page 2). Mr. Assad, brother of President Hafez Al Assad, has been in Geneva for some weeks. Arab diplomats close to him had said a meeting had been organised with Mr. Arafat, but a PLO spokesman said no meeting took place. "They are friends and did not see the need to meet," he said. Syria, main backer of opposition to Mr. Arafat within the PLO, is seen as crucial for any attempt to re-unify the organisation after a year of internal feuding.

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U.N. chief arrives in Moscow

MOSCOW (AP) — United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar and a U.N. special representative on Afghanistan arrived in Moscow on Wednesday, but refused to respond to reporter's questions about their visit. They were met at the airport by Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei A. Gromyko, First Deputy Foreign Minister Georgi Kornienko and other officials. With Mr. Perez de Cuellar was Diego Cordovez, the U.N. special representative on Afghanistan. U.N. officials said earlier that Mr. Perez de Cuellar would remain here until Friday, but gave no details of their scheduled meetings. The Communist Party organ Pravda on Wednesday announced Mr. Perez de Cuellar's scheduled arrival in a front-page story, saying he would be in Moscow for an official visit at the invitation of the Soviet government. The Pravda story did not say which Soviet leaders would meet with Mr. Perez de Cuellar, nor what topics would be discussed.

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Assad receives messages from Iran, Libya

DAMASCUS (R) — Syrian President Hafez Al Assad Wednesday received messages from Iranian President Ali Khamenei and Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi on developments in the Middle East, the official Syrian News Agency reported. The messages were conveyed to Mr. Assad by visiting Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati and Libyan Foreign Secretary Ali Abdulalam Al Tureiki.

Sudan officers killed in training

HARTOUM (AP) — Two Sudanese air force officers were killed Tuesday during training at Wadi Maryut air base, 30 kilometres north of here, the official Sudan News Agency (SUNA) reported. The two officers, identified as Major Ali Ibrahim and Major Mahdoub Hussein Osman. The agency gave no further details.

France puts 5 Iranians on trial

PARIS (R) — Five Iranians went on trial Wednesday for hijacking an Iran Air Boeing 747 on an international flight last July and forcing the pilot to take them to Lebanon. The men, four of them aged 20 and the fifth 18, said they were sympathisers of the Paris-based Iranian opposition group, the Mujahideen-Khalq group, and made use of the trial to denounce the government of Ayatollah Khomeini. "He has introduced a sign of terror," said one, Reza Goharani, speaking in Farsi through an interpreter. "We had the right to fight against him. The people have forgotten what happened. There has never been such a barbarous regime in the world."

Doha quits Shaka cabinet

DOHA (R) — Bangladesh's former Foreign Minister A.R. Hamud-Doha, re-assigned in a cabinet reshuffle last month, resigned Wednesday, government officials said. His resignation as minister of irrigation, water development and flood control is expected to be accepted by President Hussain Mohammad Ershad, they said. Officials said it was not immediately clear whether Mr. Doha would remain the government's secretary-general of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC).

Sheikh Sabah meets Libyan envoy

UWAIT (R) — Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah held talks Wednesday with a senior Libyan official on bilateral relations and other issues, the Kuwait News Agency reported. The Libyan envoy, Hisham Al Osta Omar, secretary-general of the "General People's Congress," was sent by Libyan leader Colonel Muammar Qaddafi on a tour of Arab countries to discuss joint Arab action on "strategic and decisive questions," according to Libya's official media.

Mitterrand leaves after 3-day visit

By Saleem B. Ne'matt
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — French President Francois Mitterrand left Amman Wednesday for Cairo after a three-day official visit to Jordan during which he called for mutual recognition between the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israel and the participation of the United States and the Soviet Union in a Middle East peace conference.

Mr. Mitterrand, who arrived here Monday, held his third and last round of talks with His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday morning before flying back to Paris via Cairo. French Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson left for Syria and Israel.

President Mitterrand was seen off at the airport by King Hussein and Queen Noor. His Highness Prince Mohammad, His Highness Prince Abdullah, Prime Minister Ahmad Obeidat, Upper House of Parliament Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi, Chief of the Royal Court Marwan Al Qasem, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid, Commander-in-Chief of the Jordanian Armed Force Lt.-Gen. Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, cabinet members, heads of diplomatic missions of European Community countries, Jordanian ambassadors to Paris and French ambassador to Jordan Jacques Adam de Sedoy, and other high-ranking officials. Official ceremonies were held at the airport where the national anthems of both countries were played and both leaders reviewed

problems by direct negotiations," Mr. Mitterrand said. The alternative was an international conference, he said.

At a banquet hosted by the King Monday night, the French president said "we cannot guarantee the respect of our resolutions and decisions without the participation of the two superpowers." The U.S. and Israel has so far refused to join Jordan, Syria and the Soviet Union in such a Middle East conference.

King Hussein and Mr. Mitterrand both reiterated that the starting point of the negotiations should be United Nations (U.N.) Security Council Resolution 242. The resolution calls for just settlement to the Palestinian problem through an Israeli withdrawal from all Arab territories occupied since 1967 which include the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and the Syrian Golan Heights.

The French president and his wife hosted a dinner banquet Tuesday morning at the French ambassador's residence in honour of King Hussein and Queen Noor.

Attending the banquet were their Highnesses Prince Mohammad, Princess Taghreed, Prince Abdullah and Prince Faisal, Prime Minister Obeidat, Court Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid and Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Lt.-Gen. Sharif Zaid.

During their visit here, Mr. Mitterrand and his wife Danielle visited Jordan's main tourist attractions, the 2,500-year-old rock-carved city of Petra and the Greco-Roman town of Jerash.

'Sadr Brigades' destroy Libyan embassy in Beirut

BEIRUT (R) — An explosion heavily damaged the Libyan embassy in west Beirut Wednesday and the hardline Shi'ite Muslim "Sadr Brigades" said they were responsible.

A caller told a foreign news agency the Sadr Brigades carried out the pre-dawn operation to demand the immediate release of Musa Sadr, the Lebanese Shi'ite spiritual leader who disappeared with two others on a visit to Libya in 1978.

The caller also threatened the life of Libyan Foreign Minister Abdul Salam Al Tureiki should he visit Lebanon as planned.

"We warn the Libyan and Lebanese authorities against the visit of the foreign minister to Beirut as long as Imam (spiritual leader) Sadr and his two companions are not freed by Libya," he said, adding that the Lebanese government would bear responsibility for any attempt on Mr. Tureiki's life.

Nobody was hurt in the blast but walls were blown out, furniture

hurled onto the street and concrete floors smashed.

On Monday, after the kidnapping of Libya's senior diplomat in Beirut, Mohammad Al Fattouri, the official Libyan agency JANA announced Mr. Tureiki was to hold talks in Lebanon Wednesday.

He held talks in Syria Tuesday and Wednesday, and a source close to him said he was expected to come to Beirut Wednesday or Thursday. But a source in the Lebanese Foreign Ministry said Wednesday the ministry had not been told if he was coming.

Wednesday's attack has virtually ended Libya's diplomatic presence in Lebanon. Mr. Fattouri went to Damascus after his release on Monday night, and a Lebanese employee of the embassy said Wednesday all of his Libyan colleagues had either left already or would leave by the end of the day.

The Sadr Brigades claimed responsibility for the abduction of

another Libyan diplomat on June 23. At that time they demanded that all Libyan diplomats leave the country in 48 hours and that Libya explain Imam Sadr's disappearance. Mr. Fattouri negotiated to lift the ultimatum and decided to stay.

Lebanon restored relations with Libya several weeks ago after a prolonged freeze over a dispute about the presence of Libyan troops in eastern Lebanon.

Many Lebanese Shi'ite complained about the normalisation of relations and criticised the planned Tureiki visit.

In Wednesday's attack, armed men overpowered guards at the embassy, blindfolded them and led them away until the bomb went off, then released them, an embassy employee said.

Gunmen also went to the top floor of the five-storey building to save a Lebanese woman who was sleeping there, the wife of an embassy driver.

Beirut adopts programme to gain release of militia captives

BEIRUT (R) — The "national unity" government Wednesday agreed on a programme to gain release of hostages taken by rival militias but failed to announce a release date.

Prime Minister Rashid Karami said after the three-hour session the hostages would be freed "as soon as possible, God willing," but left open the possibility the militias might continue holding some of them.

Mr. Karami said the cabinet still had not considered a plan to disengage combatants in the mountains above Beirut although a security plan to re-unite predominantly Christian east Beirut with the mainly Muslim west was "proceeding normally."

The Beirut plan, implemented over the past week, was delayed in part by protesting relatives of hostages who "clashed major intersections and approach roads to the airport and port."

They were demanding release of all hostages and information about those who have dis-

appeared. Wednesday's cabinet meeting came after several days of protests and demonstrations by families of the kidnapped, demanding that the various armed groups reveal the fate of their relatives.

The families blocked all crossings between Beirut's two sectors and delayed for four days the re-opening of Beirut's port and airport.

The demonstrators agreed to call off their blockade Monday night when they were promised the issue would be discussed in Wednesday's cabinet meeting. But they vowed to return if the cabinet failed to resolve the issue.

About 70 relatives of hostages occupied a television station for 35 minutes Tuesday night, refusing to leave until they read a statement on the air reiterating their demands.

Mr. Karami told reporters he knew nothing about the numbers of hostages being detained, but the International Red Cross stated recently it has visited slightly more

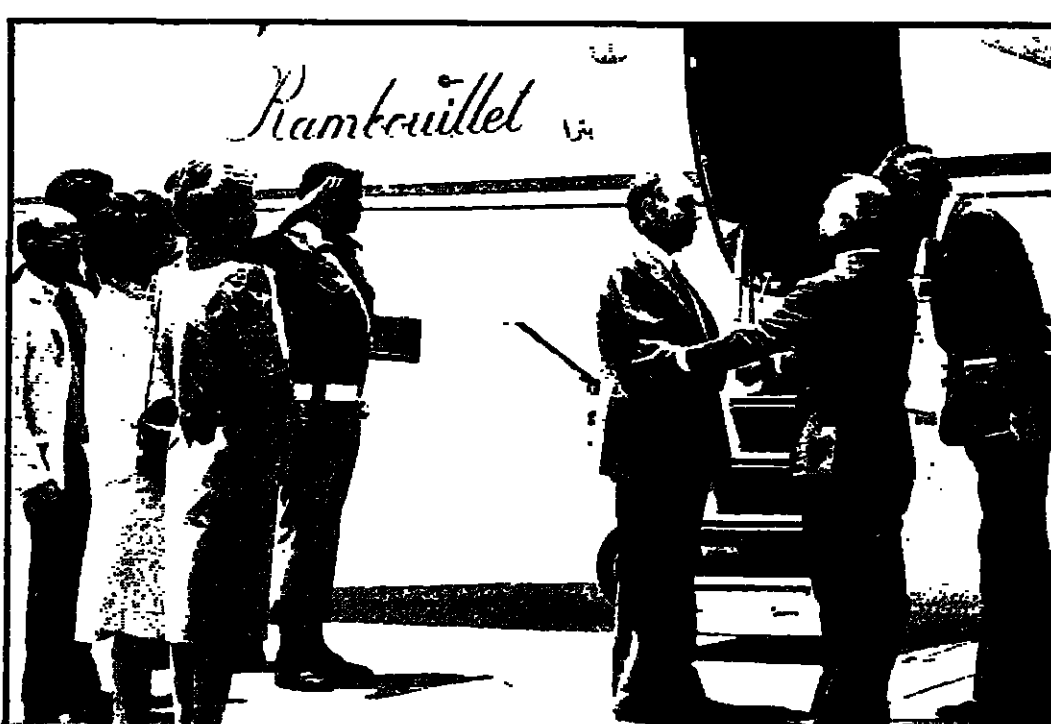
than 200 hostages. Militia officials have estimated about 3,000 were abducted during the past two years of sectarian fighting, and they conceded most are no longer alive.

The new programme authorises a committee of ministers, army officers and security officials to investigate the numbers of hostages being kept and to publish lists of missing persons believed to have been abducted by militias, a cabinet spokesman said.

Mr. Karami said: "This programme provides for releasing them all," but if some hostages were still detained efforts would continue to gain their eventual release.

The cabinet includes leaders and allies of the main militias, but they did not comment on the new programme.

As the cabinet discussed the hostages, police sources said right-wing militiamen kidnapped five passengers from a Lebanese-owned ferry as they disembarked at Beirut port.



His Majesty King Hussein bids farewell to French President Francois Mitterrand upon the French leader's departure from Amman Wednesday after a three-day state visit (Petra photo)

Iraq says large naval vessel destroyed in latest Gulf attack

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — Iraq said Wednesday its naval vessels and jet fighters had destroyed a large naval target near an Iranian oil field in the northeast of the Gulf, the latest victim of attacks on merchant ships by warring Iran and Iraq.

The attack took place in an area known to seamen as "suicide alley" because of Iraqi strikes and the presence of Iraqi-launched naval mines. It runs between the Iranian ports of Bandar Khomeini and Bushehr (See page 2).

An Iraqi military spokesman announced the air and sea attack over Baghdad Radio about 10 hours after the 133,035-ton London-registered tanker British Renown was hit by missiles further down the Gulf in an apparent Iranian strike (See page 2).

The Iraqi spokesman said the target was sighted Tuesday night near Iran's Bahran oil field, about 12 miles south of Iran's northern Gulf coast. It was "very strongly and effectively hit, destroyed and set ablaze," he added. There was no immediate independent confirmation of the attack and the spokesman did not identify the vessel. But Baghdad has previously used the term "large naval target" to indicate a tanker.

Iran and Iraq, at war for 45

months, have carried out a string of attacks on merchant ships, mainly tankers, in the Gulf since the end of March.

Britain said Wednesday it was protesting to Iran over the attack on the British Renown.

The Foreign Office said it had summoned Iran's diplomatic representative to lodge a strong protest over the raid on British Petroleum's 133,035-ton tanker.

It added that Britain's envoy in Tehran had also been instructed to make a parallel protest to the Iranian government.

A spokesman said all the available evidence pointed to the attack being carried out by the Iranian air force.

Shipping sources in Bahrain said the British Renown was hit by two missiles fired from an unidentified plane while on its way to take oil off a crippled tanker in the Gulf.

The tanker's master, Noel Brookes, told Reuters in a shore-to-ship call that his vessel was buzzed by an Iranian spotter plane 50 minutes before the attack when the vessel was near the centre of the Gulf between Iran and Saudi Arabia.

The attack occurred as the British Renown was approaching the 260,000-deadweight-ton tanker Tiburon to take oil off the crippled

vessel, hit by an Iraqi-fired Exocet missile south of Iran's main Kharg Island oil terminal on June 27.

Eight crewmen — one German and seven Spaniards — were killed in the attack and the Tiburon's Swiss owners, Suisse Outremer Reederei, said the vessel was a write-off.

Meanwhile, in Baghdad, 500 participants in the Iraqi-sponsored "International conference on the impact on the Gulf war on world peace and security" issued a statement calling on the two warring states to "immediately halt all military operations and start negotiations under international auspices aimed at settling their problems."

The conference also called on Iraq and Iran to "urgently withdraw military forces to the internationally recognised borderline."

In Washington, a senior State Department analyst said that while there still is a chance the war might close the seaports of the Gulf, the United States is now less likely to be compelled to intervene militarily to keep the region's oil flowing.

Iraqi leader reviews Gulf war developments; Iraq ready to crush Iranian offensive, page 2

Mubarak endorses Hussein's proposal

CAIRO (R) — Egypt Wednesday endorsed a call by King Hussein for an international conference to solve the Middle East crisis.

President Hosni Mubarak told reporters "Egypt considers an international conference on the Middle East as one of the alternatives" for a solution of the Middle East crisis.

But he said the conference would have to be approved by all parties concerned.

Mr. Mubarak was speaking at Cairo airport after the departure of French President Francois Mitterrand, who stopped briefly after three days of talks with King Hussein in Amman.

Acting Prime Minister Kamal Hassan Ali said Mr. Mitterrand's brief visit and talks with Mr. Mubarak were "very fruitful." He said that in addition to the Middle East crisis the talks had included the Gulf war between Iran and Iraq, and bilateral issues. He did not elaborate.

Mr. Mitterrand expressed qualified support for the idea of an international conference at a news conference in Amman Tuesday night.

The U.S. and Israel have rejected participation by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) when similar proposals have been made in the past.

France and Egypt have already co-operated in trying to break the deadlock in the peace process by submitting a plan in the Security Council in 1982 which called for an independent Palestinian state and mutual recognition between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

There were no signs that talks between Mr. Mitterrand and Mr. Mubarak might lead to a new Franco-Egyptian initiative.

In brief statements to the media after their talks, the two heads of state said merely that they had discussed important issues affecting the Middle East.

French External Affairs Minister Claude Cheysson, who had accompanied Mr. Mitterrand to Amman and Cairo, met Mr. Mubarak for thirty minutes after the French president's departure.

Mr. Cheysson later left for Israel for talks there. He is expected to visit Syria before returning home.

Israel releases 2 of 4 detained ferry passengers

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel Tuesday released two more passengers held since last month's hijack of a ferry bound for Beirut from Cyprus, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

Two others among the nine passengers seized on June 29 are still in custody.

Israel Radio said Wednesday the two still in custody were a brother and sister who planned a "terrorist attack" against Israel.

The radio's political correspondent, quoting authoritative sources, said the two were a brother and sister living in Lebanon.

Foreign Ministry and military officials could not confirm the report.

Israel released four men and a woman last week. All Lebanese Muslims. Those freed Wednesday were handed to the Red Cross and entered Lebanon shortly after noon, the spokesman said.

Israeli gunboats intercepted the Alisur-Blanco in the Mediterranean and forced it into Haifa in a move that Lebanese officials called "piracy." The ship was held for about 12 hours before being allowed to sail for Beirut with 54 of its passengers and crew of 21.

Lagos refuses to let U.K. police question diplomats

LONDON (R) — Nigeria has turned down Britain's demand to interrogate several of its diplomats over the kidnapping of a wanted Nigerian exile found drugged in a crate bound for Lagos, diplomatic sources said Wednesday.

The sources said the refusal would undoubtedly lead to three or four members of the Nigerian high commission (embassy) in London leaving the country.

Kidnap victim Umaru Dikko, a former transport minister now wanted by Nigeria's new military government to stand trial for corruption, was discovered in a wooden box addressed from the high commission to the Ministry of

External Affairs in Lagos.

One Nigerian diplomat from Lagos and three Israelis appeared in a heavily-guarded London court Wednesday accused of abducting Mr. Dikko and were remanded in custody until July 19 (See story page 8).

Police said after the four-minute hearing they still wanted to question four other men in connection with the kidnap. Police declined to give any details.

The British government has for the past two days refused to say whether Nigeria had agreed to allow police to question high commission staff about the kidnapping.

PFLP-GC formally offers prisoner exchange deal

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — A hardline Palestinian commando group has offered to free three Israeli prisoners in exchange for the release of an unknown number of Palestinians and Arabs detained by Israel.

A senior official of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC) made the offer on Tuesday at a news conference held in a training camp near Damascus.

The three Israeli prisoners were present at the conference. PFLP-GC politburo member Omar Shehadi said the Palestinians should be given the option to leave Israel or remain there.

"The ball is now in the Israeli court which has to respond to the main principles we recently presented through the Red Cross for the humanitarian swap," he said.

These principles stipulated that each side "should announce its

readiness to go ahead with the exchange through the International Red Cross," he added.

Mr. Shehadi said that upon receipt of an Israeli response through the Red Cross the PFLP-GC would be ready for "serious dialogue" with the international organisation to implement the exchange.

He said Israel held 122 PFLP-GC fighters.

Mr. Shehadi denied that the PFLP-GC held the bodies of any Israelis, adding that his group had revealed the capture of the third prisoner only when Israel published a list of its missing soldiers.

The three prisoners looked fresh and in good shape when they appeared before cameras and reporters.

One of them, Yousef Grov, told reporters the Israeli government did not want to expedite the exchange and added: "I want you and

the Red Cross to exert pressure on it to speed it up."

On Sunday, Austria's ambassador to Greece, Herbert Amry, said in Tel Aviv that he met three Israeli prisoners being held by the PFLP-GC in Lebanon.

Samuel Tamir, Israel's chief prisoner of war negotiator, said he hoped Amry's visit augured possible talks on a prisoner exchange with the PFLP-GC.

In the meantime, despite announcements by another Palestinian group that an Israeli prisoner of war it was holding was killed in an Israeli air raid 12 days ago, Defence Minister Moshe Arens said Tuesday that Israel was willing to negotiate a prisoner exchange for his release. Israel Television reported.

The television quoted Mr. Arens as offering the exchange during a visit to the captive's family.

The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) announced on June 18 that Sgt. Samir Assad, who was taken prisoner in Lebanon more than a year ago, had been killed in an Israeli air force raid on Rabbat Island, near the north Lebanese port of Tripoli.

Israeli military sources said at the time that the DFLP announcement was probably untrue and planned as a psychological weapon against Israel. Syria returned six prisoners to Israel earlier on June 28 in exchange for over 300 Syrian POWs and Arabs jailed for resisting Israeli occupation.

The DFLP passed a further statement to Israel through the International Red Cross on Friday, saying that Sgt. Assad had died in the Israeli attack.

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2 Home - Middle East news

Missile-hit U.K. tanker inspected off Dubai

BAHRAIN (R) — The tanker British Renown, hit by a missile in the Gulf Tuesday, dropped anchor off Dubai Wednesday for damage inspection while Iraqi claims to have hit a naval target near an Iranian oil field remained unconfirmed.

Noel Brookes, captain of the 133,035 tanker owned by British Petroleum, told Reuters in a shore-to-ship radio call Tuesday's missile attack left a hole one metre in diameter in tank two on the ship's starboard side.

Surveyors had boarded the ship to assess the damage, which appeared "relatively minor", he said. Capt. Brookes said Tuesday the vessel had been hit by an Iranian missile while on its way to off-load oil from the crippled tanker Tiburon. The Tiburon was hit by an Iraqi missile on June 27 after loading 250,000 tonnes of crude at Iran's Kharg Island terminal.

Meanwhile, there was no independent confirmation of Iraqi claims to have destroyed "a large naval target" Tuesday night near Iran's Bahran offshore oilfield about 20 kilometres south of Iran's northern Gulf coast. Shipping sources said there were several oil platforms and large buoys for mooring tankers at the oil field. A pipeline also runs from the field to the Iranian coast and then south to Iran's major oil terminal at Kharg Island.

In London, a spokesman for the General Council of British Shipping said the organisation was making no specific recommendation to shipowners on whether to enter the Gulf and shipowners must continue to decide the matter for themselves.

About 10 United Kingdom-based ships are now in the area, he said. British Petroleum Company said the British Renown, owned by its subsidiary British Midway Tanker Company, had been chartered by Smit International to off-load oil from the 260,000 deadweight-ton Tiburon.

British Petroleum Medway earlier confirmed the British Renown was hit by two missiles, which started a small fire quickly extinguished by the crew. There were no casualties.

A Smit International spokesman in Rotterdam said the Tiburon would be moved from its position off Bahrain Wednesday to protect the 50 or more people working to save 220,000 tonnes of Iranian crude on the Tiburon. Another vessel had earlier off-loaded 30,000 tonnes.

Smit was likely to keep the new anchorage secret to lessen the chance of further missile attacks. The spokesman said Smit was awaiting news on how long repairs to the British Renown would take before deciding whether to charter another tanker.

Capt. Brookes gave the British Renown's position at the time of attack as 26 degrees 34.6 minutes north and 51 degrees 56.8 minutes east, 155 kilometres east of Saudi Arabia's Ras Tanurah Port.

Tuesday's attack was the second on a British ship in the Gulf area this year. The 19,210-ton bulk carrier Charming was hit and severely damaged by a missile in an Iraqi air raid last March near the Iranian port of Bandar Khomeini.

Iranian sources said the world at large. The Iranian Kharg Island is completely under siege which will continue until the Iranian leaders respond to the calls of peace, the Iraqi minister said.

He said the long war against Iran has created a very strong Iraqi army, capable of confronting all eventualities.

In contrast, he said, "the Iraqis are weak both at the domestic and war fronts and the continued unrest and dissatisfaction within the Iranian society reflects the Iranian people's conviction that the regime can never achieve any of its aggressive ambitions".

The Jordanian journalists were covering an international conference in Baghdad to study the impact and effects of the Gulf war on world peace and security.

Marshall Abu Ghazala said Tuesday that France has also agreed "in principle" to allow the Egyptians to export some of the jointly manufactured weapons to other Middle Eastern and African countries.

He said French military delegations would come to Egypt next month for further discussions on the matter. He gave no further details.

Egypt is currently assembling the French Gazelle helicopters.

talks with his French counterpart Charles Hernu.

Egypt and France agreed two years ago to assemble the aircraft in Egypt but this was the first time a top Egyptian official mentions a date for implementation.

France agreed in 1982 to sell Egypt 20 Mirage 2000 jet fighters. Egyptian officials said then they would seek an additional 20 or 40 planes of the same type but the outcome of their efforts was not disclosed.

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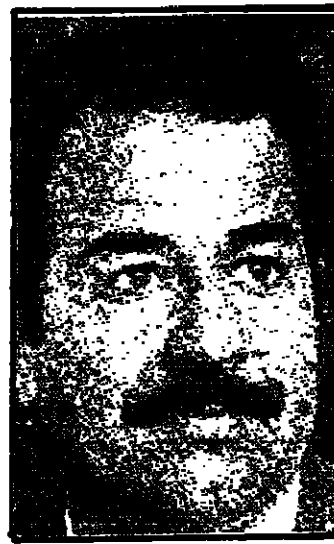
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Saddam Hussein

Saddam reviews Gulf war development

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraqi President Saddam Hussein Tuesday met army commanders to review latest developments in the Gulf war with Iran, the official Iraqi News Agency INA reported.

Mr. Hussein is commander in chief of the Iraqi Armed Forces and Tuesday's meeting was also attended by the Minister of State for Military Affairs, General Abdul Jabbar Khalil Shanshal, INA said.

A conference held in Baghdad to discuss the war's impact on world security Tuesday night urged an immediate end to hostilities and negotiations under international supervision to end the war.

The conference, of some 700 delegates from peace movements, liberation groups and factions opposed to Iran and its backers, issued a statement closing their three-day meeting which urged the United Nations and other bodies to resume efforts to end the 45-month-old war.

The conference, whose ranks did not include top policy makers, also called on Iraq and Iran to "urgently withdraw military forces to the internationally recognised borderline".

The conference also called on "all states of the world to refrain from any act that could prolong the war" between Iraq and Iran and decided to form a permanent international committee to coordinate contacts between the U.N. and the mediation committees.

The trips, usually in convoy, can

Syria credited with Lebanese reconciliation

WASHINGTON (R) — A senior U.S. State Department official Wednesday welcomed moves to restore normal life to Beirut and credited Syria with helping the reconciliation process.

Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy said: "I think it is apparent that Syria has decided that a stable Lebanon, a stable Beirut in the first instance, is the basis on which to work for greater stability throughout the country."

Mr. Murphy told reporters there had been a shift in Syria's position which had earlier been devoted to scrapping a U.S.-backed Lebanese-Israeli agreement on withdrawing Israeli troops from the country. Lebanon

cancelled the accord last March. Beirut's airport and port resumed normal work for the first time since February as a government peace plan took hold.

Mr. Murphy said the reconciliation moves were welcome signs.

Attempts to put the plan into practice have been hampered by delays in clearing key roads between eastern and western sectors and by demonstrations for the release of hostages held by rival Fatah and opposition militias.

The demonstrators pulled back Tuesday morning.

On the Gulf war, Mr. Murphy forecast the war between Iraq and Iran would bring further air at-

tacks on oil tankers in the Gulf. But he played down the effect of such attacks on the world oil market.

Mr. Murphy refused to rule out categorically U.S. intervention to keep the Gulf open but said Washington had made clear it did not want to intervene but was ready to help countries in the region with defensive weapons.

They were the 13,000-ton Greek-owned Alexander Dyo, which had been carrying iron ore from Mozambique, and the 6,000-ton South Korean Wonjin, loaded with Japanese steel products. A Panamanian ship was reported to have run aground the same day.

Two Filipinos were killed aboard the Alexander Dyo.

"Surprisingly, there is less loss of life than one would imagine, partly because only one man stays down in the engine room, where the ship is normally hit, and the rest stand on deck with their lifeboats ready," one shipping source said.

Convoys through the most dangerous stretch of the route normally consist of up to nine merchant vessels, often escorted by Iranian frigates or destroyers in an effort to ward off air attacks and clear Iraqi-laid mines, the shipping sources said.

But some convoys make the journey without frigate escort, relying on combat air patrol, ship-ping sources said.

"An Iranian naval officer and pilot board the merchant ship before it enters the danger zone, and have instructions to run it aground if it is hit," one shipping source said. "They are told to keep the channel open at all costs," he said.

The skipper of a 7,591-ton Greek-owned cargo ship, the Tevotian, said he had instructions to veer into any rocket fired at his ship so that the mast, and not the bridge, would be hit, reducing the chances of serious damage.

The skipper, Captain Peter Hampton, said his ship had engine trouble while anchored off Kharg Island and missed a convoy in Bandar Khomeini in May. "The crew had enough, so we turned back to Bahrain," he said.

Some shipowners say that finding crews to make the run to Bandar Khomeini is becoming difficult.

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Mr. Perez de Cuellar said earlier this week that since he saw little chance of convening a full-scale Middle East peace conference because of opposition from Israel and the U.S., he was

suggesting a more limited meeting under Security Council auspices grouping the major powers, directly involved Middle East countries and the P.L.O.

Mr. Arafat said the P.L.O. was ready to co-operate with Mr. Perez de Cuellar, the U.N. and the Security Council for a comprehensive solution.

She described the talks as "very useful discussions".

Mr. Arafat later told a press

conference his two-hour working lunch with the U.N. chief covered all aspects of Middle East affairs including the situation in southern Lebanon.

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Richard Murphy

acks on oil tankers in the Gulf. But he played down the effect of such attacks on the world oil market.

Mr. Murphy refused to rule out categorically U.S. intervention to keep the Gulf open but said Washington had made clear it did not want to intervene but was ready to help countries in the region with defensive weapons.

They were the 13,000-ton Greek-owned Alexander Dyo, which had been carrying iron ore from Mozambique, and the 6,000-ton South Korean Wonjin, loaded with Japanese steel products. A Panamanian ship was reported to have run aground the same day.

Two Filipinos were killed aboard the Alexander Dyo.

"Surprisingly, there is less loss of life than one would imagine, partly because only one man stays down in the engine room, where the ship is normally hit, and the rest stand on deck with their lifeboats ready," one shipping source said.

Convoys through the most dangerous stretch of the route normally consist of up to nine merchant vessels, often escorted by Iranian frigates or destroyers in an effort to ward off air attacks and clear Iraqi-laid mines, the shipping sources said.

But some convoys make the journey without frigate escort, relying on combat air patrol, ship-ping sources said.

"An Iranian naval officer and pilot board the merchant ship before it enters the danger zone, and have instructions to run it aground if it is hit," one shipping source said. "They are told to keep the channel open at all costs," he said.

The skipper of a 7,591-ton Greek-owned cargo ship, the Tevotian, said he had instructions to veer into any rocket fired at his ship so that the mast, and not the bridge, would be hit, reducing the chances of serious damage.

The skipper, Captain Peter Hampton, said his ship had engine trouble while anchored off Kharg Island and missed a convoy in Bandar Khomeini in May. "The crew had enough, so we turned back to Bahrain," he said.

Some shipowners say that finding crews to make the run to Bandar Khomeini is becoming difficult.

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Nablus women hold anti-torture protests

AMMAN (Petra) — Hundreds of Palestinian women from the city of Nablus on the occupied West Bank Tuesday held a sit in at the headquarters of the International Committee of the Red Cross in protest against the inhuman treatment of Palestinian detainees in Israeli jails.

In Occupied Jerusalem, another group of people representing trade unions in the West Bank staged a sit in at the Red Cross office to protest against the inhuman treatment of detainees.

Iraq ready to crush Iranian offensive

BAGHDAD (Petra) — Iraqi Information Minister Latif Nasif Jaseem said here Wednesday that the Iraq is very strong and is ready to crush any new Iranian offensive across the border.

Addressing a visiting Jordanian journalists delegation the minister said Iraq, which seeks peace from a position of strength, wants to put an end to further human suffering and destruction in the Gulf and

the world at large. The Iranian Kharg Island is completely under siege which will continue until the Iranian leaders respond to the calls of peace, the Iraqi minister said.

He said the long war against Iran has created a very strong Iraqi army, capable of confronting all eventualities.

In contrast, he said, "the Iraqis are weak both at the domestic and war fronts and the continued unrest and dissatisfaction within the Iranian society reflects the Iranian people's conviction that the regime can never achieve any of its aggressive ambitions".

The Jordanian journalists were covering an international conference in Baghdad to study the impact and effects of the Gulf war on world peace and security.

Marshall Abu Ghazala said Tuesday that France has also agreed "in principle" to allow the Egyptians to export some of the jointly manufactured weapons to other Middle Eastern and African countries.

He said French military delegations would come to Egypt next month for further discussions on the matter. He gave no further details.

Egypt is currently assembling the French Gazelle helicopters.

talks with his French counterpart Charles Hernu.

Egypt and France agreed two years ago to assemble the aircraft in Egypt but this was the first time a top Egyptian official mentions a date for implementation.

France agreed in 1982 to sell Egypt 20 Mirage 2000 jet fighters. Egyptian officials said then they would seek an additional 20 or 40 planes of the same type but the outcome of their efforts was not disclosed.

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Masri refutes alleged strain in ties with PLO

AMMAN (J.T.) — Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri has described Jordanian-Palestinian relations as "very strong" and denied rumours that they have lately been damaged, according to a report in the Al Rafi Arabic daily newspaper. These relations are becoming stronger day by day and reporters in the press about them being otherwise are completely false," the minister said.

He also said "the coming few days will prove that these relations are following the right course and those who believe the improvement in relations with Syria will adversely affect Jordan's relations with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) are wrong."

"We have strong relations with the PLO and other states. These relations are founded on firm principles that are not liable to be affected by changing moods," Mr. Masri pointed out. Anyone wishing to cast doubt on Jordan's national stand with regard to other Arab states or with the PLO is doomed to failure," Mr. Masri said.

Regarding the reported improvement in relations between Jordan and Syria in view of messages exchanged between His Majesty King Hussein and President Assad, Mr. Masri said: "Jordan's relations with Syria have never been completely severed and an exchange of greetings on the occasion of 'Eid Al Fitr' should not stir so much ado."

"In addition officials from Jordan and Syria have continuously exchanged visits, but the press sometimes tends to exaggerate the situation," he said.

Alia recommences daily flights to Beirut today

AMMAN (Petra) — Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline, will resume its daily flights to Beirut starting Thursday, according to a spokesman for the national airline.

He said that a plane of the Lebanese national carrier, the Middle East Airlines (MEA), landed at the Queen Alia International Airport Tuesday evening, the first flight from Beirut in five months.

The previous flight from Beirut to Amman was on Feb. 7 when an MEA plane made a risky take-off from Beirut airport due to heavy shelling and fighting there, the spokesman said.

Britain agrees £3.5m loan for electricity projects

AMMAN (J.T.) — Britain's minister for overseas development has agreed a £3.5 million loan to the Irbid District Electricity Company (IDECO) to help strengthen and extend the electricity supply network in North Jordan. One aspect of this project is to link a number of villages in the rural area with the mains electricity system.

This new project consolidates work already undertaken by IDECO, using an earlier British loan of £3.662 million which was signed in 1979. Britain has also provided grants to IDECO to finance technical co-operation personnel, training, scholarships and feasibility studies.

The funds for the new British loan will come from the £8 million loan agreement which the National Planning Council and the British Embassy signed in 1982. Two other allocations from this loan agreement are already under discussion between the British and Jordanian authorities.

The first is some £2.5 million to equip five vocational training schools for boys being constructed by the Ministry of Education, the second is some £2 million to equip the new laboratories and workshops being built for the Faculty of Engineering at Yarmouk University.

Seminar focuses on effects of industry, agriculture and desertification

By Olga Mikhail
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The second day of the pan-Arab seminar entitled "Environmental Pollution in the Arab World" continued here Wednesday at the Yarmouk University Liaison Office.

Several working papers were presented and discussed by the 60 participants. A paper presented by the land and water development division of the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) stressed the need to set up organisations to be responsible for implementing, managing and controlling water salinity and pollution resulting from irrigated agricultural practices.

The increase in the use of irrigation results in higher pollution potential from agriculture sources of this pollution will have to be assessed, the researcher stated.

Noise pollution was discussed by Dr. Volker Irmner from West Germany. Dr. Irmner defined "noise" as undesired sound mostly affecting also densely populated areas in industrialised countries.

He also said noise at places of work is a severe problem in industrialised countries, in many cases it is so high that it damages the ears leading to noise induced deafness.

Also discussed in the afternoon session was the subject of pollution in the Gulf.

During the morning sessions, arguments between the participants took place and many of the participants recommended the Arabisation of the pollution terms to avoid confusion.

Siting of industries

Dr. Al Tel, director of the seminar organising committee, cited the significance of the problem of desertification in Jordan where only five per cent of land in Jordan is used for agriculture. He said that 11 per cent of the total land area is cities and the rest is desert or unclaimed land. For this reason, Dr. Tel added, it is important to organise the siting of industry in Jordan.

Dr. Saleh Osman, director and regional representative of the regional office for West Asia and United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) told the Jordan Times, that this is not the first time a conference on pollution has been organised here.

"We are facing all kind of pol-

lution in the Arab World including water, air and soil pollution as well as desertification," Dr. Osman said. He reiterated the need to stop desertification in the Arab World as it is considered an irrational relationship between man and land.

Industrial pollution

Regarding the different kinds of pollution that the world is facing, Dr. Osman said "Western Europe is highly industrialised and faces problems of pollution in the air, in addition to pollution from chemical industries."

He said that the increased awareness of both governments and individuals in Europe led to certain pollution control measures being introduced."

Dr. Osman continued that because the developing countries are in need of industrialisation and because they are not fully aware of the adverse consequences of the pollution from industry, there is more of an acceptance by the developing countries to have these

Mexandeau, Zaben tour new station

MADABA (J.T.) — French Communications Minister Louis Mexandeau and his Jordanian counterpart Mohammad Addoub Al Zaben Wednesday visited the town of Madaba, 30 kilometres to the south of here, and inspected work on the installation of a French-built electronic telephone exchange and a modern microwave station.

Dr. Zaben said in a statement that the exchange and the station are part of an urban-rural telecommunications project being financed by France under a protocol agreement.

When completed, the project, which is estimated to cost JD 5 million, will offer digital telephone services to a wide area extending from Ramtha, near the Syrian border in the north, to Madaba in the south, and from Al Omari in the east to the Jordan Valley in the west, the minister explained.

The new telephone exchange, which has a capacity of 30,000 lines serving 23 towns and villages, will enter partial service early in the coming month when 6,700 lines will begin initial operation, the minister said.

Dr. Zaben paid tribute to Franco-Jordanian co-operation and voiced appreciation to French communications officials for their efforts to complete the project on schedule.

Later on, the two ministers toured archaeological sites and the museum in Madaba.



Social Security Corporation Director-General Fahri Obeid (right) addresses a meeting of social security liaison officers Wednesday (Petra photo)

Social security provisions to cover extra 700 firms

AMMAN (J.T.) — Seven hundred companies and establishments in Jordan, which employ a minimum of 10 persons, will be included in the extension of the Social Security law which comes into force at the beginning of the coming month, according to Social Security Corporation (SSC) Director Fahri Obeid.

Addressing a seminar for SSC liaison officers employed at the various companies included in the SSC law, Mr. Obeid said that nearly a quarter of a million people in Jordan will be included in the law in August.

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European Community to fund rural projects

AMMAN (J.T.) — Investments to strengthen the economic development of rural areas in Jordan are being supported with four million ECUs from the European Investment Bank (EIB), the European Community's (EC) Bank for long-term finance, according to an EC bulletin.

The funds, in the form of a global loan, are going to the Cities and Villages Development Bank (CVDB), which will on-lend to

municipal and village authorities for local small-scale economic infrastructure schemes outside the main urban centres.

Schemes to be supported include local roads and revenue-generating projects, such as slaughter houses, truck service depots, covered markets and trade centres, as well as workshops for small-scale industrial activities.

Finance is being made available through a 2.5 million ECUs loan

from the EIB's own resources, granted for 15 years at 8.7 per cent interest allowing for a two per cent interest subsidy borne by the European Community (EC).

These funds are being provided under the second EC/Jordan Financial Protocol running from November 1981 until October 1986, which makes available a total of 37 million ECUs from the EIB's own resources, and from the European Community's Budget 7 million ECUs in special loans, and 19 million ECUs in grant aid.

Omar Al Sheikh appointed top ministry official

AMMAN (Petra) — The cabinet held a session Wednesday afternoon under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Ahmad 'Obeidat during which it discussed a number of issues on its agenda and took several decisions. The cabinet decided to appoint Dr. Omar Al Sheikh as under-secretary of the Ministry of Occupied Territories Affairs. Before this appointment Dr. Sheikh was professor at the Faculty of Education at the University of Jordan.



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Cabinet orders state purchase of cereal crops

AMMAN (J.T.) — The cabinet has instructed a central committee for purchasing locally produced crops to buy cereals and field crops from Jordanian farmers produced in the 1983-84 season, according to committee Chairman Salem Al Lawzi.

Dr. Lawzi, who is also under-secretary at the Ministry of Agriculture, said that the crops will be bought at subsidised prices in co-operation with the Jordan co-operative organisation (JCO).

The government has been buying the crops at subsidised prices over the past years in a drive to encourage farmers to produce more cereals and other field crops. The prices paid are normally higher than can be obtained on the world markets.

According to Dr. Lawzi, farmers can hand in their crops at the following centres: Jwaideh, in the central region; Irbid and Ramtha, in the northern region; and Rabbeh and supply department centre at Karak in the south.

The committee teams in charge of receiving the crops comprise officials representing the Ministries of Supply, Agriculture, the audit bureau and the JCO.

Dr. Lawzi said that these teams will embark on their task Saturday; and he appealed to all farmers wishing to sell crops to produce a certificate or origin before the transaction can be carried through.

The ministry of supply will pay the farmers the subsidised price for wheat, barley, lentils and chick peas, and will pay the cost of transporting the products which will later be handed in to the JCO to be sold for prices to be fixed by the cabinet, Dr. Lawzi pointed out.

He said that wheat will be bought at JD 132 per tonne, and barley at JD 106 per tonne, while the prices of lentils and chick peas will be fixed later in the light of the amount of dannels and other importures found with the crops.



Art competition, display to be held at festival

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Higher National Committee for the Jerash Festival has decided to offer three awards to artists presenting the best works in painting, sculpture and photography.

A committee spokesman said that the winners will be given certificates of merit.

The themes for the competition are "Jerash" and "Festival", and all art works inspired by these words are eligible to enter.

A special committee will select pieces of art work suitable for display at the festival and will later decide on the winners in each category who will receive a prize of JD 150 each, the spokesman said.

All Jordanians and artists living in the country are invited to participate and should submit their works to the Alia Art Gallery no later than Aug. 1, he added.

Iraqi official discusses land, rail transportation

By Samih Haddad
Petra

AMMAN — Iraqi Under-Secretary of Transport and Communications Abdul Sattar Al Rawi, who is currently on an official visit to Jordan for meetings of the Jordan-Syria Land Transport Company (JSLTC) paid tribute to His Majesty King Hussein and the Jordanian government and people for their support of Iraq in its just war against Iran.

Mr. Rawi also lauded the close political and economic relations between Jordan and Iraq and affirmed that they have reached a level "to be proud of" and which is capable of achieving integration between the two countries.

In an interview with the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, Mr. Rawi said his visit to Jordan aimed at discussing the financial and administrative situation of the JSLTC, in addition to studying the company's activities scheduled for next year.

He also said that he had met with Minister of Transport Taher Hikmat for discussions and that they have similar views regarding the transportation of goods from Jordan to Iraq via Aqaba port. Mr. Rawi praised the efforts of the Jordanian officials and the Aqaba Ports Corporation in this field.

Answering a question about the activities of the JSLTC from the date of its establishment until the present time, Mr. Rawi said that the aim of the company was, and is still, to serve national and economic goals.

He also said that the joint projects being implemented in the two countries contribute either directly or indirectly to reaching a permanent co-operation agreement with Jordan, in addition to serving the interests of the two countries in the field of land transport.

Replying to a question about the availability of trucks and difficulties in transporting goods to Iraq from Aqaba port, Mr. Rawi dismissed rumours about any such problems, stressing that the company will enjoy a good future because of the support it receives from the Jordanian and Iraqi governments.

Regarding the possible construction of a railway line linking Jordan and Iraq, Mr. Rawi said that the project is currently under study. Once it is implemented, he added, the project will be of great service to both countries.

It will also facilitate the transportation of goods from Europe and other countries to the Middle East, particularly the Gulf states, he concluded.

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The bitter reminder

WEDNESDAY'S bombing of the Libyan mission in Beirut which followed the kidnapping of two Libyan diplomats in a span of 18 days goes a long way to show the anti-Libyan fervour in Lebanon and its impact on the Arab standing as a whole.

Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi, who has been playing a catch-me-if-you-can pattern of behaviour ever since he assumed power in 1968, does not seem to realise that his unpredictable policies have gone too far and something better be done about it. His dispatch of an emissary to Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, carrying messages on "joint Arab action", however, may seem to signal a change of mind in the Libyan capital; and if it is so, it is a welcome development.

Libya, with its vast resources and potential, could play a significant role in the quest for peace in the Middle East and a just solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict, as well as the Gulf war, if only Col. Qadhafi would mend his ways and moderate his attitudes generally.

Our experience in the past has shown us in vivid colours that the Libyan leader is highly unreliable at times of crisis and we wonder what could possibly be the motivations behind such irresponsible behaviour. It seems foolish, if not childish, to seemingly ignore one's own potential and go around doing things which, in our opinion, do nothing to boost one's own image. On the contrary such actions, instead of projecting strength and political power, if that is what Col. Qadhafi seeks, undermine Libya's standing in the international arena.

Libyan intervention in neighbouring African states has in fact allowed Israel to make inroads into several states in the continent. If the Libyans believe in the concept of Arab unity and the common threat the Jewish state poses to the Arab World, the present course their country is following has to be changed. Its actions, instead of helping the Arab cause, are doing much harm to the Arab World and any further step in the same direction is sure to deliver a major blow to Arab aspirations and pan-Arab goals.

We deplore inter-Arab violence in all of its forms, but Col. Qadhafi has to himself show that he does not stand for it either.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Special French role

KING HUSSEIN was particularly concerned to mention the important role of France in establishing Middle East peace during his press conference with the visiting French president Tuesday evening. He also was keen on pointing out that an international conference in which all concerned parties in the issue, including the PLO would be the best and last chance for establishing peace.

France, the King said, is qualified to play a leading role in holding such a conference and helping to establish peace and security, because it has shown on many occasions that it is committed to serving higher ideals and noble principles. France, he added, has also helped to keep the Middle East region outside the sphere of international polarisation despite U.S. and Zionist policies in the region and despite the strategic alliance between the U.S. and Israel.

President Mitterrand has re-affirmed his country's policies when he said that his government will not transfer its embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem and France will continue to recognise the right of the Palestinian people in their homeland. He also described the PLO as representative of people struggling for liberation and independence. He said that an international conference to solve the issue would be the best guarantee for peace in the region.

Al Dustour: Identical views

THE FRENCH President and King Hussein focused attention on a number of important issues during their joint press conference Tuesday evening. First of all they proved that their views are identical on matters connected with means of ending the Arab-Israeli war and finding a solution to the whole Middle East issue.

The two leaders said that they want an end to Israeli occupation of Arab land and the implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 242 which forms the basis for a solution. They also supported the idea of holding an international conference which can help bring about the aspirations for peace. They also proved to have identical views on the right of all concerned parties, including the Soviet Union and the U.S., to take part in the peace-making process.

This step is most essential because, from past experience, both saw the U.S. failure to achieve any comprehensive solution because it had handled the issue alone and because it was totally biased towards Israel.

Of course France would not have adopted such a constructive attitude had it not been acting under the wise leadership of President Mitterrand who is noted for his courageous stand and his commitment to respect international and human principles, and his close contact with King Hussein. Both Jordan and France have proved their commitment to serve the cause of justice, freedom and peace.

Sawt Al Shaab: Constructive French attitude

AFTER LISTENING to King Hussein and President Mitterrand at their joint press conference Tuesday one can detect two things: both leaders had almost identical views on a number of Middle East problems and the positive French stands vis a vis the Arab Israeli conflict.

France, though not seeking to have a unique role to play yet through its historic links with the Arab peoples, it can offer all its services and bring in its weight to give impetus to the peace-making process. One must not forget France's position within the European Community and its status as a permanent member of the U.N. Security Council.

President Mitterrand has offered a constructive role to play, something which ought to be followed suit by other European leaders. He pledged to help solve the Arab-Israeli conflict on the basis of Security Council Resolution 242 to end the Israeli occupation of Arab land. The president is also demanding that the rights of the Palestinian people be respected and that they be given the chance to determine their own future. For peace to be established, he said, the Palestinian people should be included in any efforts to solve the problem, and the PLO represents a people striving to achieve freedom, he added.

All these attitudes should be considered as constructive steps leading to the solution of the problem on a just basis.

Long used to arms, Lebanese need time to disarm

By Tod Robberson

Reuter

BEIRUT — The American movie "Fort Apache the Bronx" was the hot topic of conversation among Druze Muslim militiamen as they chatted inside a bullet-gutted building on Beirut's "green line."

The film features Paul Newman as an ageing New York policeman who has resigned his job but finds it difficult to hang up his gun. Fighting crime is in his blood.

The militiamen rested their arms across Kalashnikov assault rifles as they recalled scenes from the film.

They were quietly waiting out their final hours on the green line before Lebanese army troops moved in on Wednesday to implement a government peace plan.

Suddenly one fighter withdrew a hand gun from his holster and in a police-style stance crouched and fired at a concrete block 40 paces away.

"That was how Paul Newman did it," he said with a grin.

A half-dozen others immediately withdrew their guns and practised the same stance, blasting away at the concrete block until it was reduced to pebbles.

One militiaman gestured to green line buildings in Beirut's old commercial centre, riddled with shell and bullet holes, and said: "Someday this area will be like the Bronx, and we'll be the cops."

Druze and Shi'ite Muslim militiamen consistently admitted in recent interviews that after five months of non-stop fighting on the green line they would find it difficult, like the character portrayed by Newman, to hang up their guns.

Few said they were ready to return to the civilian jobs they had held before taking up weapons last February to battle against Lebanese army loyalists and mainly Christian right-wing militiamen.

A Druze Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) militia commander said his men had no intention of leaving the green line but would remain out of sight as long their

leader, cabinet minister Walid Jumblatt, ordered them to do so.

Shi'ite "Amal Movement" fighters said that once Christian east Beirut and the Muslim west were completely re-united under the peace plan, they planned to move against Israeli forces occupying South Lebanon.

Other militiamen said it was the sheer exhilaration of fighting that would make it hard to put away their guns and return to their previous, more mundane jobs like construction work or truck driving.

"I don't mean that all we want to do is fight for the rest of our lives," 19-year-old Druze fighter Walid said. "We enjoy fighting, but we also enjoy things like playing soccer."

Mustapha Wehbeh, 34, said he had been an Amal militiaman since the beginning of Lebanon's civil war in 1975 and he would not return to his previous job as a taxi driver until all of Lebanon was free from Israeli military occupation.

He said he was so committed he had taken his three teenage sons out of school and trained them to be gun-toting Amal fighters as well.

His 14-year-old son Hassan recalled the first time he ever fired a Kalashnikov. "The Israelis were moving into Beirut two years ago, and I ran into the street to shoot at them. I didn't wait to see if I shot anybody, though."

Like his father, Hassan said he would not put away his gun "until the South is liberated" from Israel.

Some militiamen said although they had grown accustomed to green line life — dashing between bunkers, dodging sniper fire and camping out amid rubble-strewn buildings — it would be nice to take a rest.

PSP fighter Issam, 35, had spent the past five months as a forward observer for his unit. It was his job to goad Christian militiamen and army fighters into shooting so he

could tell where they were positioned among a maze of sand-bagged bunkers.

The job often required him to venture into no-man's land on the green line armed only with a revolver and a pair of binoculars. His technique to taunt the enemy was to throw rocks at their positions, then pepper the area with gunfire and wait for a return volley.

When the enemy was spotted, Issam would mark the area, later returning with rocket-propelled grenades to blast away the bunkers before his fellow militiamen moved in.

"It was the most dangerous job any of us could do," he said. "But it was fun." Issam has since put away his militia uniform and guns to take a much safer and quieter job as a security guard for a Western embassy.

Militiamen said their overriding reason for still holding onto their weapons was skepticism about the new peace plan for Beirut, which forbids militiamen from wearing

uniforms or carrying weapons in public.

"I don't care what the security plan says, there's no trust in what's happening," said one PSP militia chief, who asked not to be identified.

"There will still be weapons in every one of our houses, and I don't mean just rifles. There will be machine-guns and rocket-propelled grenades, because the army tried a security plan before and it didn't work."

He recalled recent peace-plan meetings between Mr. Jumblatt and President Amin Gemayel at the president's summer residence in the mountain village of Bikfaya.

The commander added jokingly: "If the plan doesn't work this time, we can have our big guns back in Beirut in five minutes. But this time we'll come back through Bikfaya."

"That's why Walid Jumblatt goes to Bikfaya all the time," he said jokingly. "He's making a road map."

Greek-American relations undergo socio-political chill

By Bruce Clark

Reuter

ATHENS — Ties between Washington and Greece's Socialist government, never easy, have worsened significantly in the last two months, according to both sides.

A strike at the four U.S. military bases in Greece and U.S. charges that Athens is soft on guerrillas have added to chronic Greek displeasure over high levels of American aid to Turkey.

Some 1,800 Greek employees at the bases began a three-day strike on Tuesday, their second in a month. Pickets prevented people from entering or leaving the main airbase near Athens.

The workers want the Americans to implement a Greek court decision awarding them higher wages and shorter hours. U.S. officials say the court was not competent to rule on the issue.

Greek officials said they were trying to mediate in the dispute

but one commented: "I cannot say I have seen a spirit of co-operation (from the Americans)."

In the past fortnight, senior officials of both countries have disclosed news of a Greek-U.S. row over the release by Athens of a Jordanian who, according to American intelligence allegations, wanted to blow up planes between Athens and Tel Aviv.

A U.S. agent gave the Greeks photographs of a suitcase, apparently primed to explode, which he and a British colleague allegedly found at the home of a British friend of the Jordanian in the Greek capital.

The government, angry that undercover work was going on here without its permission, asked the U.S. agent to leave Greece. The Jordanian was arrested at Athens Airport soon afterwards on April 16 but freed some weeks later.

A senior U.S. State Department official last week described the man's release as outrageous, while

a senior Greek official countered Wednesday that there was no legal basis on which the Jordanian could be charged. He added that Greece was fully committed to cracking down on "guerrilla violence."

Political commentators saw the latest two rows as symptomatic of an apparent breakdown in efforts by both sides to maintain smooth working relations despite the radically different ideologies of Washington and the Greek Socialists.

Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu's Pasok (Socialist) Party swept to power in 1981 amid strong anti-American rhetoric.

Pasok's anti-American feelings are fuelled by memories of U.S. support for the military junta which ruled from 1967 to 1974 and jailed and tortured many leading members of the party.

Mr. Papandreu is committed to the long-term goals of removing U.S. bases from Greece and pulling out of NATO. He signed an accord last year allowing the bases



to stay for a further five years, but he insists they must leave after 1989.

Washington says the bases' future remains open.

Until recently, U.S. officials discounted suggestions that they were upset by Mr. Papandreu's rhetoric and described day-to-day co-operation on military and other matters as satisfactory.

Greece takes part in some NATO exercises — it boycotts others because of a row with Turkey in the Aegean — finding itself in the paradoxical position of preparing for an alleged Soviet threat which it officially says does not exist.

But U.S. officials were intensely irritated in May when Mr. Papandreu, at a party congress, called the United States "the metropolis of imperialism" and said Moscow wanted peace.

Undersecretary of State Richard Brund said it was "very frustrating to deal with a government, an allied government, that defends the Soviet Union and criticises the U.S."

Greek-U.S. ties improved late

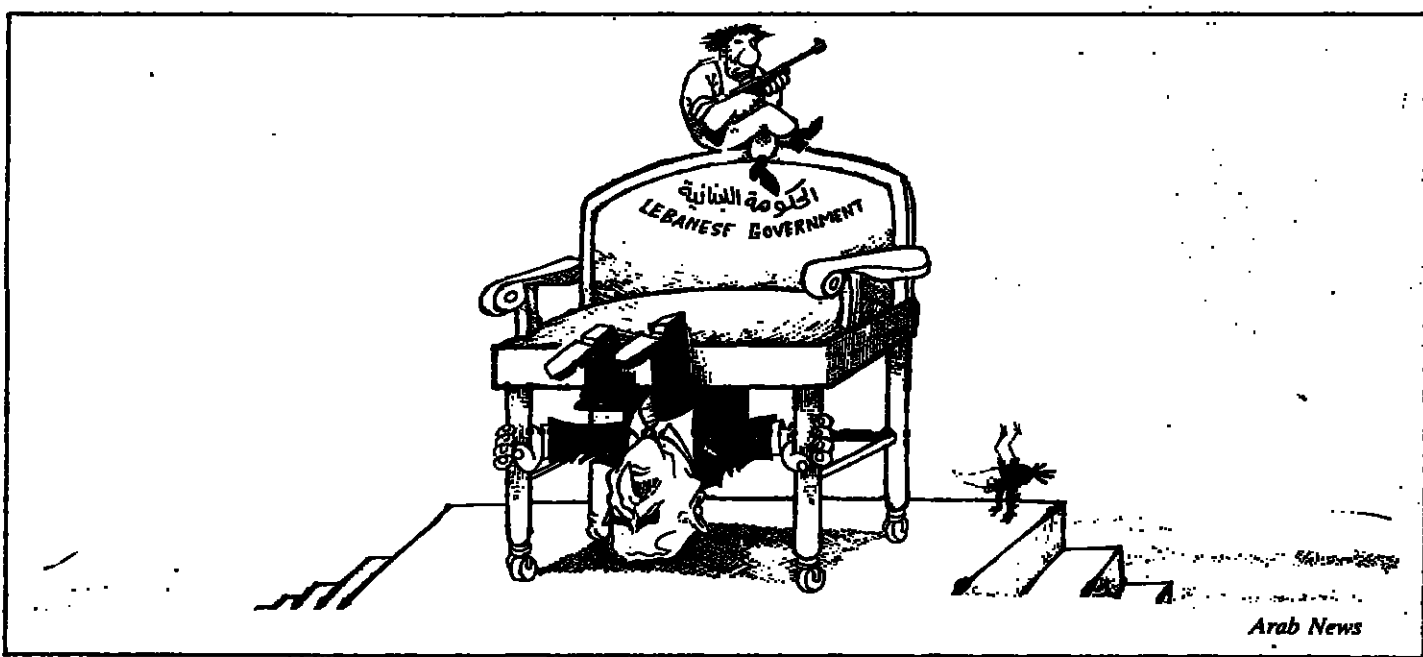
last year when President Reagan strongly condemned the declaration of an independent state by the Turkish-Cypriots in northern Cyprus.

But any goodwill created by his remarks has long since run out on the Greek side because of Mr. Reagan's insistence that Turkey, Athens' traditional feared rival, should continue to receive extensive U.S. aid.

Some Greek commentators think Mr. Reagan is taking a tougher line with Greece to influence Congress, where the Greek lobby is continuing to press for cuts in aid to Turkey.

President Constantine Karamanlis, in an apparent bid to ease the situation, sent Mr. Reagan a warm message to mark U.S. Independence Day on July 4, praising the two countries' traditional ties.

The former conservative Prime Minister spoke of "the traditional friendship between our two peoples based on common ideals and common struggles for freedom."



Most W. African states accept IMF pills

By Michael Battye

Reuter

LAGOS — Most West African states apart from black Africa's biggest economy, Nigeria, are swallowing austerity pills prescribed by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to pull their economies out of deep recession.

They may not like the taste, but without the economic and political clout of Nigeria they will be forced to follow the treatment, banking and diplomatic sources say.

Many governments fear that the deflationary impact of IMF measures will deepen recession, but their need for loans to pay off debts has dictated that they do as the IMF says.

This has meant cutting public spending and food subsidies and devaluing their currencies — measures designed to promote efficiency but which have produced little growth and caused economic contraction in many countries.

The sources say only a sustained boom in the prices of commodities on which the region depends for crucial export earnings can promote lasting economic growth.

Inefficiency and the corruption endemic in many countries have been compounded by depressed commodity prices and an unprecedented drought last year.

These factors have had a catastrophic effect on countries stretching from Gambia and Senegal, who depend on groundnut exports, to the Central African state of Zaire. For many nations the recession is the worst since they became independent.

Bankers and diplomats point to Nigeria as a classic case of how misguided policies and rampant corruption, allied to dependence on one commodity, oil, can lead to economic decline.

In 1980, Nigeria produced an

average 2.1 million barrels per day (BPD) of crude oil, on which it depends for 95 per cent of its foreign exchange, and sold it for \$40 a barrel.

Industry boomed on unlimited imports and people left the land in large numbers, ending the country's traditional self-sufficiency in food. But the boom was short-lived.

Nigeria's oil output fell to 1.24 million BPD last year, when the price slumped to \$30 a barrel. Industry was strangled by a lack of money for imports, inflation trebled to 23 per cent and gross domestic product fell 4.4 per cent.

The military has since cut spending, kept up medium- and long-term debt payments, settled trade debts with short delays and cut the amount of foreign exchange available for imports to a third of its 1982 level.

This has boosted Nigeria's foreign reserves, officially put at around \$1 billion, though the country still has trade debts estimated at five to \$7 billion.

Nigerian manufacturers have continued to shed labour at an alarming rate because the scarcity of foreign exchange means they cannot get enough imported raw materials.

Serious shortages of cash since a complete change of banknotes has dented confidence in banks, while food prices are still rising despite the military's promises to bring them down.

Negotiations with the IMF for a loan of around \$3 billion have been put into cold storage because Nigeria will not agree to devalue the naira, which would make its exports more competitive but its imports more expensive.

The loan was widely regarded as an essential prerequisite for the rescheduling of short-term trade

debts and a restoration of international banking confidence.

Despite the problems, however, bankers and economists report glimmers of hope, largely because the government seems determined to live within its means, whatever the consequences.

"The Nigerian economy is in a mess, but it's not as bad as a lot of people would have you believe," one banker said.

Despite the stalled IMF talks, observers here expect agreement to reschedule Nigeria's debts from credit agencies who guarantee exports to Nigeria and banks concerned about their future dealings with this major market.

There is no way said would be cut off, said one banker. "There is too much business here to ignore it."

Even the Ivory Coast, long seen as black Africa's economic success story, has not escaped recession.

Ivorian officials blame it on drought, on depressed prices for cocoa and coffee — which account for about half the country's export earnings — and on the dollar's steep rise, which has boosted the cost of servicing debt of about \$6 billion.

An economic boom in the 1970s fuelled by high cocoa and coffee prices turned to crisis in the early 1980s as commodity prices plunged, the dollar soared and debts mounted. Real gross domestic product fell eight per cent between 1980 and 1983.

Since 1980 the nation has pursued austerity recommended by the IMF. After initial reluctance, it joined many of its neighbours last December in requesting a rescheduling of its debts, and this was agreed in May.

Bankers and diplomats in Abidjan expect the Ivory Coast not to record any growth this year, but some say former cocoa and coffee

prices, good rains this year and sounder economic management will lead to recovery in 1985.

Its prospects are bright compared with the drastic slump which has hit Ghana, a once prosperous former British colony suffering a chronic shortage of fuel and spare parts, which has forced industry to run at a fraction of its capacity.

Output of cocoa in Ghana, once the world's biggest producer, has dropped from over 460,000 tonnes in the early 1970s to around 160,000 tonnes. Export earnings have slumped.

Ghana's budget last March, which further devalued the country's virtually worthless currency, the cedi, reflected strict guidelines laid down by the IMF and the World Bank.

But possibly the worst decline has taken place in Zaire, potentially one of the richest developing countries.

The Central African country has seen its immense natural resources wasted by widespread corruption and poor management and has been hit recently by low prices for copper and cobalt, which account for about 70 per cent of its export earnings.

Economists call Zaire a "basket case" credit risk but, partly to keep its strategic minerals within the Western camp, Western creditors again stepped in with aid in December.

This cleared the way for an IMF credit line worth more than \$350 million and bankers in the former Belgian colony say Zaire is sticking to the fund's medicine.

No growth is expected for five years, but inflation — which soared to an estimated 150 per cent last year after a draconian devaluation — is expected to fall to about 40 per cent this year and 30 per cent in 1985.

Bolivian labour boss almost repeated the Chile syndrome

By Richard Boudreaux
Associated Press

LA PAZ, Bolivia — Bolivia is nearly paralysed by a bitter feud between two aging heroes of its 1952 revolution — a president and a labour boss struggling for control of the poorest country in South America.

Their rivalry involves a race between prices spiralling at 760 per cent a year and a minimum wage now standing at \$60. But the underlying issues are who controls mining and food distribution, and whether to swallow austerity medicine of the International Monetary Fund.

At stake is the stability of the continent's most avowedly leftist government. It was elected in 1982 after 18 years of military rule that drove this Andean nation's 5.8 million people deeper into poverty. Under civilian rule.

Three times in the past six months, the Bolivian Labour Confederation led by Juan Lechin Oquendo, 72, shut down the country with general strikes. On June 30, an army colonel led an abortive coup to heal "labour anarchy" and a lack of government authority, and had 70-year-old President Hernan Siles Zuzazo kidnapped.

Ten hours later Mr. Siles was freed after Mr. Lechin's workers assembled in mines and factories, ready to resist the overthrow of a democracy they regard as their own. The military rebellion collapsed when military units remained loyal to the government.

But the national senses of relief did not ease animosities between the two septuagenarians and soon returned to a sense of crisis. Last Thursday, Mr. Lechin called miners, teachers, factory employees and office workers on strike again.

On Friday, as Mr. Siles presided over an emergency cabinet meeting, the white-haired Lechin directed the strike over a bedside telephone in his bachelor retreat.

Doctor Siles and Don Juan, as these elder statesmen are now addressed, are charismatic men who fought together 32 years ago to destroy the mining and landowning interests that dominated the country.

After winning the revolution, they had a falling out over economic austerity measures Mr. Siles imposed during a pre-revolutionary period in the 1950s. Their enmity is being revived for the same reason today.

Private banks are pressing Bolivia to reach an accord with the

IMF as a step toward rescheduling the part of its \$4.4 billion foreign debt owed to commercial banks. Mr. Siles keeps promising to do so, but pressure from Mr. Lechin's unions has kept four cabinets from ordering the deficit cutting that the IMF prescribes.

"The problem with Siles is that he was never a real revolutionary, and his advisers are a bunch of jerks," said the undisputed chief of Bolivia's workers. Sitting up in bed under a bare, hanging lightbulb, he told a visitor about his dream of a new revolution "to liberate us from the IMF and North American domination."

"The banks lent short-term money at high interest for speculative ventures that stunted the country's development," he said. "We're not refusing to recognise this debt, but we will not pay it while our people go hungry. This is a rebellious people. We will rise up, and the rest of Latin America will support us."

In the current dispute, labour is demanding an indefinite halt of payments on \$720 million in debt to commercial banks until the unions decide that the country can afford to resume them. The government, which hasn't paid the banks since March, insists on negotiating a new schedule that would resume monthly payments but cut them at 25 per cent of export earnings.

Mr. Siles' four-party coalition is "an alliance of classes," says Vice President Jaime Paz Zamora. "For Lechin, the labour movement is the centre of the revolution. To survive atop that movement, he moved to the left — to an ideal of class conflict."

Mr. Siles has upset many officers by allying with the Communists in an effort to use their strength in the labour movement against the non-Marxist Lechin.

Last month Mr. Lechin threatened to cut water, electricity and telephone lines to the presidential palace and government ministries to press labour demands. Communist unions blocked the move the labour leader said.

Most of the time, Mr. Lechin gets his way.

After taking over offices of the state mining company last year, the Miners Union won a role in its management. Peasant unions have achieved the right to be import agents for farm machinery and supplies. In the latest strike, the union gained control of food marketing in the countryside — a move Siles accepted in hope of stabilising food prices.

Handwritten text in Arabic script, possibly a signature or a note, located at the bottom of the page.

THE LITERARY CORNER

Too little a play for a fresh beginning

Taghreebat Zareef Al Toul

I WAS really fascinated by the melodious Palestinian folk lyrics sung in the play of Taghreebat Zareef Al Toul by a group called "Al Rayat and Al Jadayel". This is quite an unorthodox opening of a drama critique, but I cannot help it, simply because the songs are unbelievably beautiful. (the voices, the tunes, the musical composition... etc.) and because they are far advanced than the play itself, a cynic critic remarked that the show was a wonderful performance by "Al Rayat and Al Jadayel" intermittently interrupted by a bad play.

The hero, together with his partisans, revolts against the colonial powers, but to no effect. So he decides to emigrate in search for wisdom. Upon finding it, and the moment he starts preaching for love among his people. A group of Bedouins murder him, putting an end to the new hope and surrendering to defeat.

The author, Jehrib Al Sheikh, hits upon the eternal social struggle between the peasants and workers on one side and what he calls "the dignitaries" on another. He portrays dignitaries shifting loyalties as fast as they change their shirts.

The play is undoubtedly a new development in the Jordanian theatre, and does, therefore, represent a new insight into the Palestinian cause, but a very serious question may be raised: Is it really a play, or just a series of sketches? Another very important question may also impose itself: Does the author mean to present a protagonist (Zareef Al Toul) or does he simply want to embody

the whole Palestinian people in a single character, the hero? He has actually failed to realise either. He could not convince the audience that Zareef Al Toul is the long-awaited hero. In many instances we felt that Shubash — a fellow rebel in the real hero, who volunteers to bring weaponry and gives orders to the rebels.

The playwright has also failed to achieve the organic unity among his characters on the one hand, and between his characters and the audience on the other. Only once did he try to address the audience seeking their help and involving them in the struggle as they are part of it. He has certainly failed to maintain any relationship between his unseen chorus and the audience to achieve the U.S. Elliot did in "Murder in the Cathedral".

Zareef Al Toul could not impress me as being a public hero meant to avenge the poor peasants and thus restore their usurped rights. Instead, he

moves on the stage as is expected from a dandy type of person. He is too much indulged in loving and being loved by "the beautiful women" — a young image of Mohammed Al Abed, the old nymphomaniac who unjustifiably occupies most of the play's space and time. Even his Christ-like martyrdom could be interpreted as the price he had to pay for seducing a Bedouin girl. I am sorry Mr. Sheikh; but this cannot be the way a Palestinian symbol of liberation should be presented in. He should not presumably die for preaching love, but instead, through a clear-cut tragic flaw based on a profound concept of liberation. And one more thing, Palestinian public squares are not the European Plazas where women would stand and announce their love and sexual desires not even for symbolic public heroes.

However, the performance in its entirety represents an advanced step towards creating a well-recognised and distinct Jordanian theatre. Hani Snouber, the famous Jordanian

director, marks his return to the theatre after a ten-year self-imposed dramatic banishment by utilising the new techniques of decor, lighting and sound effects to reinforce development of events on the stage. He has succeeded in moving his characters (although still reflecting the old Snouber blend) very artistically by resorting to some dramatic movements strictly recommended by academic dramatists. But, unfortunately, he could do nothing to instruct his actors and actresses not to wear artificial faces, put on phony laughs (particularly those produced by the ones acting the roles of Mohammad Al Abed and Dal'ouna).

In this respect, it would have served the director's return to the theatre world better had he collaborated with professional actors and actresses instead of amateurs. The artificiality of the actors and sometimes the decor does not at all help create the illusion of reality; we are always reminded that we are in the theatre watching a play! In

short Mr. Snouber: Your return should have been far better than this performance.

And now to the actors: Recognising the fact that they are a group of amateurs, and asserting that each and every one of them tried to give his or her best to make the play a success, I find it extremely difficult to say that none of them is talented, except for the one who acts as Abuz Zuluf (unfortunately, no bulletin was issued to inform us about the names of actors and actresses) who exhibits a promising potential for being a successful actor.

Many things can still be said about the controversial play, which will continue to capture the attention of Jordanian intellectuals for some time. The efforts are great and appreciated, but certainly not up to the expectations. Let's hope for more and better performances, shall we?

— Ahmad Jaber

Randa Habib's Corner

New vandals in town

THE other day I made the acquaintance of a new vandal. In bright daylight and not hiding, three young men were in a very modern car amusing themselves by driving near to parked cars and spraying them with paint. The fact that the passers by could see them did not seem to bother them. Once their job was over they just left to repeat the same story elsewhere. As I was staring pitifully at my car, and the cars of my neighbours, which incidentally looked like rainbows, a driver stopped and said: "Not again".

"Do you know them", I asked. "No, not really but I know the way it amuses them to spray paint on cars. Hurry quickly to a garage where they will take off this turquoise colour with polish," he said. "But why do you think they do that?" I asked more to myself than to the driver. "They have a nice time and release their frustrations", answered the man before leaving.

In the meantime my neighbours came to discover red and yellow paint on their cars. One was really furious and he was shouting that if he found those yobs he would break their necks. We then looked at each other silently, being victims and not understanding. I then said to the other owners: "It seems that they are enjoying themselves. Amusements these days seem to take a different shape than they did in the past."

I appeal to the authorities to be very severe with these people who commit such acts, not forgetting those who break the windows of cars or mutilate them, those in short who have a nice time... at your expense.

Emily Post's Etiquette revised and updated

By Robert Basler
Reuter

NEW YORK — For anyone who is confused about when to tip an airline stewardess (never) or whether to smoke at a funeral home (only if the grieving family does), America's bible of good manners has just been updated.

"Emily Post's Etiquette," which has sold more than one million copies since it was introduced in 1922, has been revised for the first time in nine years.

Emily Post died in 1960, and the new edition is the work of her grand-daughter-in-law, Elizabeth Post, who now helps to see that the Post name remains a byword for American manners.

Ms. Post, 64, says her grandmother-in-law would be "startled and shocked" to get a look at the 1984 version, with its advice on drugs, live-in lovers and unmarried mothers, but would nonetheless be happy to see her work carried on.

Elizabeth Post is quick to say that her revisions are not arbitrary — she simply chronicles, and does not dictate, prevailing rules of social behaviour.

"The concept of etiquette doesn't change, but manners do," she said in a telephone interview from her home in Vermont.

The new edition of "Etiquette" reflects creeping informality in many areas, among them master-servant relations. Readers are reminded that in times past the butler and chauffeur were called by their last names, but nowadays first names are fine.

Indeed, the book discusses at some length the subject of hired help. Readers are advised to act with patience, and warned of "the difficulty in finding servants today."

But Ms. Post recognises that not everybody has a chauffeur, and gives tips for proper behaviour in public transport.

In an uncharacteristic lapse into devilry, "Etiquette" suggests a method, already known to many New Yorkers, of retaliating against the occasional rude taxi driver. "Get out and walk away, leaving the door open," Mr. Post says.

There is some advice on religious etiquette — including a few words on what to do in an aud-

ience with the Pope — and detailed instructions for dealing socially with very important people (when going to meet the president of the United States, arrive early and do not stay too long, the book says).

In 1922, when Emily Post wrote her first book, she strongly warned against discussing anything remotely serious at dinner (suggested conversation opener: "We want to motor through the south. Do you know the roads?").

Things have changed since then, and Elizabeth Post allows for more substantive topics, but even she has to draw the line somewhere. (Readers should avoid such tacky questions as "what happened to Bobby's complexion..." or "are you and Hank really getting a divorce?").

There is much more in the 1,000-page book. Advice about what sort of present to give a nun (religious pictures, light novels and gift certificates) and on how to eat certain foods (when chips come with a sandwich they may be eaten with the fingers. Otherwise, they are to be "cut into reasonable lengths and eaten with a fork").

The new "Etiquette" briefly mentions drug use (parents should not panic to learn their teenager has smoked marijuana).

The book devotes much space to unmarried people living together, with advice on sharing finances, polite words to substitute for husband and wife in introductions, and other such problems which never would have occurred to Emily Post.

Ms. Post says her new edition contains "a lot of new material for single parents and single people," and a new section on career women, dealing with such topics as what to wear to the office and what to do about sexual harassment.

The market for an etiquette guide was not always clear. "When it was first written, Emily Post thought it would be bought by the upper class, but that wasn't true — they didn't need it," Ms. Post says.

Today, she explains, the book's advice is sought by the upwardly mobile — "women whose husbands have been promoted and have to entertain."

The book's biggest audience seems to be in the midwest and the south, according to Ms. Post.

Nude covergirls bolster W.German magazine sales

By Janet Bush
Reuter

FRANKFURT — Old age pensioners collecting their newspapers and children buying comics in West German newsagents are forced to run the gauntlet of rack upon rack of bare breasts and backside.

Spicy mass-circulation magazines, their front covers showing nude women almost every week, are a constant talking point among Germans and in the national press.

"There is nudity everywhere in European magazines, but the soft-porn in German magazines is truly a phenomenon," said Ingrid Szebel, an editor of the feminist magazine Emma.

Well-established weeklies are competing not only with each other but with new low-priced papers. They are also facing a stiff competition from television, and fewer readers. Volker Nickel of the industry's statistics body, IVW, said.

The response has been a seduction strategy using nudes to entice readers back. And they seem to like it.

The inhibited are outnumbered by those who have become used to the emancipation and ignore it, or who openly enjoy it.

A female executive at Neue Revue magazine, who declined to be named, said a spot featuring young couples posing naked regularly receives fan mail — and no complaints.

A recent issue of the well-respected Stern magazine, which sells an average 1.5 million copies weekly, sported a front cover of three nude women with cameras marching in step on a beach to advertise a feature on films for family holidays.

Stern has also used nude pictures to illustrate articles on pharmaceutical companies, the German film industry, night clubs, fashion and holidays.

Naked bodies have increased on the front of Stern since its re-

putation — and circulation — was hit by its publication of forged Hitler diaries last year, media specialists say.

But Stern's Wolfgang Behnken, editor for front covers, said: "The Hitler diaries had no effect on our front covers — we have always had the same mixture of politics, caricatures and girls."

He added: "There is a marked tiredness with political matters at the moment and we are having to look for other themes to interest our readers. They want lighter subjects at the moment such as holidays and travel."

A recent Stern front cover showed 24 pairs of breasts with an accompanying article about "how women see their breasts". Mr. Behnken said the response from the public was immense and around 120,000 more copies than the weekly average were sold.

Even the mid-market Der Spiegel, selling around 900,000 copies a week and renowned for persistent investigative reporting, ran full-frontal nudes recently to illustrate articles on genetic engineering and cult religions.

Some magazines, such as Neue Revue, "Quick and Bunte" run regular features on sex.

Neue Revue, which sells 1.3 million copies weekly, offers 1,000 marks (\$370) to young couples prepared to be photographed in nude poses from a romantic bicycle ride to passion in a poppy field.

Neue Revue journalist John Leupitz said consistently high demand from both readers and applicants has kept the feature going, roughly in its present form, since the paper was founded at the end of the 1950s.

Peter Jansen, spokesman of the German Press Council, a body monitoring standards in the press, said very few complaints are received from the public about nudity, regarded by most as part of a liberal and modern society. Most complaints received concern stories about brutality in the press, he added.

St. Sophia Cathedral is alive again



On the territory of today's Byelorussia the basis of the Old Russian architecture was laid in the 10-11th centuries. The St. Sophia Cathedral in Polotsk is one of the most outstanding architectural monuments of that period.

Construction of the cathedral started in the second half of the 11th century. The cataclysms of history did not allow the cathedral

to preserve its original appearance. Many times it was burnt or destroyed and each time restored or rebuilt. Its last reconstruction was in the 18th century, the eastern wall being all that remained of the 11th century work done.

Yet, St. Sophia Cathedral is of a unique importance for the his-

torians, architects, archaeologists and art experts from many countries.

The cathedral is protected by the state as a historical archaeological preserve. Apart from the cathedral proper, the preserve includes the local history museum and the house of Peter I (Russian tsar, 1672-1725). Recently restoration works that started in the

1960's came to their end. A concert hall of organ and chamber music was opened there.

In Byelorussia, like anywhere in the Soviet Union, much attention is paid to the preservation of the cultural and historical heritage of the past, which is of great importance for the aesthetic and moral education of people—TASS

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Singapore, 3rd Asian country to receive Ku Klux Klan threat

SINGAPORE (R) — Singapore said Wednesday it had become the third Asian country to receive death threats from the Ku Klux Klan, an American white-supremacist group, against its athletes participating in the Los Angeles Olympic Games.

S.S. Dhillon, secretary-general of the Singapore National Olympic Council, said Singapore received the threat in a letter which his office received on July 2.

"I think the rest of the Asian as well as African countries participating in the Olympics received the same letter," he told Reuters.

An official of the Sri Lankan committee said Monday in Colombo its athletes had received a threat from the Klan, and Mal-

aysia's Olympic Committee last week said it would pass on a threatening letter it received to the U.S. embassy in Kuala Lumpur.

Dhillon said the unsigned letter had the name of the Ku Klux Klan beneath the emblem of a hooded man carrying a cross on a horse.

The racist Klan was formed in the southern United States after the civil war.

All the letters have threatened to shoot or hang the athletes if they participated in the Olympic

Games.

"The blacks and yellows will not be permitted to defile America's stadiums. We have forced the Soviets out of the Olympics, we shall not permit the apes to be present either," the letter said.

Dhillon said Singapore had not informed the U.S. government about the letter because the council was confident that the organising committee and the Los Angeles police will provide the necessary security.

On Tuesday U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, in Singapore for talks, said that the death threats made against non-white Olympic athletes and purported to come from the Ku Klux Klan were so outrageous that he could not believe they were made by the Klan.

Shultz told a press conference that he almost believed the threats were a disinformation campaign. But he refused to say if he was alluding to the Soviet Union.

Lendl beats McEnroe in ATP rankings

NEW YORK (R) — It may seem preposterous, and may even be unfair that John McEnroe won his third Wimbledon Championship in stunning style on Sunday but lost his number one world ranking to Ivan Lendl of Czechoslovakia, who was beaten in the semifinals.

The Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) Tuesday issued its latest computerised rankings, reached through a complicated formula judging players' performances over the past 52 weeks, and McEnroe was number two.

The reason for the perplexing shift is anything but clear, but the ATP computer coordinator R.V. Baugus attempted to explain it in a telephone interview from the association's Dallas headquarters.

He said the players had voted last January to lessen the number of points awarded for tournaments and also to add a factoring agent that would encourage increased participation in ATP-recognised events.

"All these things were voted in by the players, even though this seems preposterous — that Mc-

Enroe can win Wimbledon and drop to number two," Baugus said.

"McEnroe is now on the board of directors (of the ATP) so I imagine he'll have something to say about the rules changes and perhaps instigate further alterations."

Basically, Baugus said, there were two factors at work. The number of 'star category' points awarded for reaching a certain round was decreased, and players were given a bonus 'divisor' once they took part in more than 13 tournaments in a 52-week period.

Baugus said the 1983 Wimbledon results came off the computer this week as the 1984 results went in.

Both McEnroe and Lendl finished in the exact position they did last year, but the American lost ground under the new system which cut into the winner's share of points more severely than those awarded to the losing semifinalists.

"McEnroe lost 90 points at Wimbledon just through rule changes," he said.

"The second reason is another rule change voted in by the players. Once a player has 14 tou-

rnaments on the computer, his divisor (to reach an average) becomes 13. This encourages players to enter more tournaments. If a player enters 30 tournaments his divisor is only 26.

"Lendl has 15 tournaments on the computer, so we used 14 as his divisor. McEnroe has 13, so his divisor is 13."

This explained how Lendl remained number two after defeating McEnroe in the final of the French Open last month, but was able to overtake McEnroe while losing to second-seeded Jimmy Connors in the semifinals.

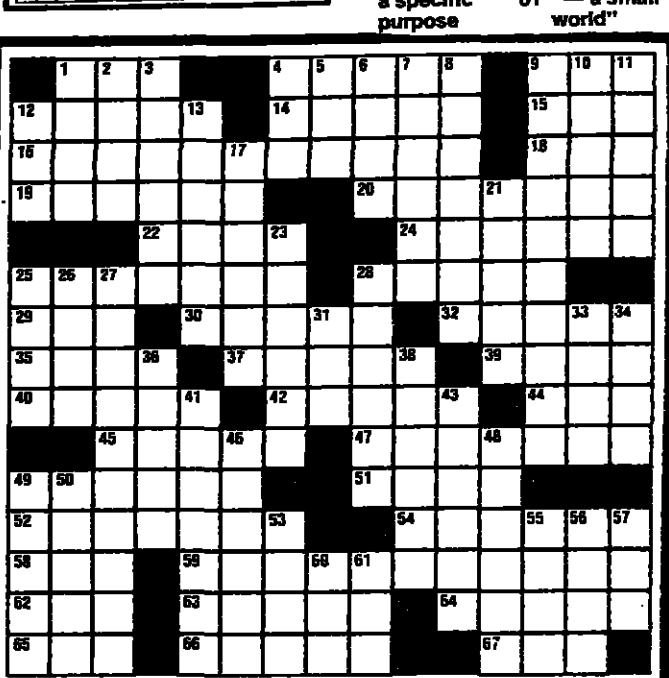
McEnroe went on to crush Connors 6-1, 6-1, 6-2 in the final, but wound up trailing Lendl by six-hundredths of a point on the rankings.

Lendl's average points total is 158.29, while McEnroe's is 158.23. These are reached by adding the number of tournament points and bonus points and then dividing by the divisor.

Two weeks ago, after the French Open, McEnroe led with an average of 163.31 to Lendl's 159.29.

THE Daily Crossword by C. F. Murray

ACROSS	25 Goddess of retribution	51 Note	21 Potato state
1 State further	26 Waterway	52 Certain	23 Afr. fly
4 Wooden shoe	29 "— clear day"	54 Wrestling hold	25 — bene
9 Feline	30 "The Skin of Our —"	58 Favorite money	26 Adam's grandson
12 Cornered	32 Belg. city	59 A dressing	27 Punch or Judy
14 Rock spur	35 Actor Rip	62 Allow	28 Place of worship
15 Bat wood	37 Place	63 Orsain	31 Social affair
16 Susan B. Anthony	39 Siouan	64 Vane	33 "High —"
18 Take to the slopes	40 Chinese, for example	66 Yearning sounds	34 Camping item
19 Involve	42 Tasty	67 Self-esteem	38 Type of ball or board
20 Kyoto banjo	44 Ship weight	DOWN	41 Locals
22 Man from Wales	45 Type of orange	1 — for one's money	43 Esterles
24 Black and grass	47 Obvious	3 Mar	46 Castor and Pollux
	48 Related on the father's side	4 Droop	48 Erase
		5 Exist	49 Granny Smith, e.g.
		6 Track	50 Naive
		7 Ont. city	53 Obstacle
		8 Pouring	55 Party for men
		9 Ramekin	56 Preminger or Graham
		10 Out of line	57 Wedding announcement word
		11 Weeds out	60 Helmut's word of woe
		12 Mao — tung	61 "— a small world"
		13 Most arid	
		17 Unites for a specific purpose	



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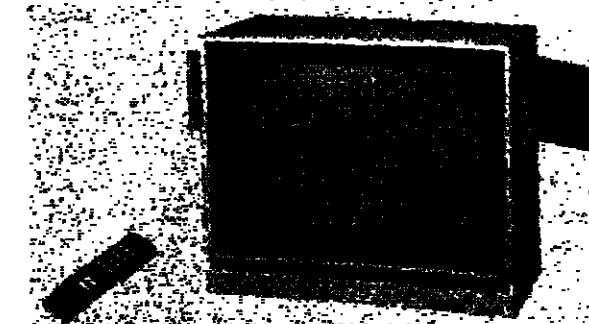
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FIRST RACE - 3.00 p.m. For beginner horses Distance 1400 metres

Owner	Horse	Trainer	Jockey	Weight
1- Mamdouh El Adwan	Mihiz	Owner	Ibrahim	54
2- Mamdouh El Adwan	El Abjar	Owner	54	
3- Sakir Fahad	Sinjar	Owner	Fakeeh	54
4- Mohammad Mitik	Ibn El Izz	Owner	Ahmad	54
5- Saie El Faiez	Amal	Owner	52.5	
6- Dhan El Sobail	Elfarah	Owner	52.5	
7- Ziad Abboud	Shahrzad	Owner	Dallalah	52.5
8- Mohammad Sulman	Sumayah	Owner	Saad	49.5

SECOND RACE - 3.30 p.m. For beginner horses Distance 1000 metres

Owner	Horse	Trainer	Jockey	Weight
1- Hani Bisharat	Saad Kamel	Owner	51	
2- Bahjat Fanous	Hohwan	Owner	Fakeeh	51
3- Bahjat Fanous	Fawar	Owner	George	48
4- H.H. Late Sherif Nasir	Faridih	Owner	Ibrahim	49.5
5- H.H. Late Sherif Nasir	Urban	Owner	Ibrahim	48
6- Nidhal B. El Hadid	Ward	Owner	Ahmad	48

THIRD RACE - 4.00 p.m. For beginner horses Distance 1000 metres

Owner	Horse	Trainer	Jockey	Weight
1- Mamdouh El Hadid	Lazaz	Owner	Saad	54
2- Hani Bisharat	Muhalhal	Owner	54	
3- Ghalib Haddadin	Rabie	Owner	George	54
4- Bahjat Fanous	Anbar	Owner	Ibrahim	52.5
5- Nidhal B. El Hadid	Rifash	Owner	Ahmad	49.5
6- Hani El Hadid	Amirah	Owner	Fawaz	49.5

FOURTH RACE - 4.30 p.m. For third class horses Distance 1600 metres

Owner	Horse	Trainer	Jockey	Weight
1- Sami Haddadin	Wadhah	Owner	Fakeeh	57
2- Bahjat Fanous	Apollo	Owner	Ibrahim	55
3- Hani Bisharat	S. El Zaman	Owner	53	
4- Fahmy Ahmad Marwan	El Farazdak	Owner	53	
5- Nidhal B. El Hadid	Hadla	Owner	Ahmad	51.5
6- Ghalib Haddadin	A. El Midan	Owner	George	49

FIFTH RACE 5.00 p.m. For third, second & first class horses Distance 1400 metres

Owner	Horse	Trainer	Jockey	Weight
1- Mamdouh El Hadid	El Ghawy	Owner	Saad	60
2- Ghalib Haddadin	D. El Aswad	Owner	George	55.5
3- A. El Latif El Hadid	Wisam	Owner	Saad	54
4- Sami Haddadin	B. El Reeh	Owner	Fakeeh	54
5- Sami Haddadin	A. Samra	Owner	48	
6- Hani Bisharat	Nawy	Owner	48	

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AASMAN
(Colour)
"Indian Film"

Performances: 12-3 - 5:30-8

Cinema
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1- RUNAWAY
"Indian Film"
2- CACTUS GIRL
(Colour)

Performances: 12-3-7

Cinema
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ESCAPE FROM THE BRONX
(Colour)

Performances: 12-3-6:30-8

British bank raises base lending rate

LONDON (R) — Barclays Bank, one of Britain's four large, commercial banks, said Wednesday it was raising its base lending rate to 12 per cent from 10 per cent.

The base rate, at which banks will lend to their best customers, is the key index on which other commercial bank lending is calculated, and the increase is bound to bring sharp rises in interest charges on house mortgages and other loans.

The rise has been widely predicted this week, and the other banks are expected to follow suit, probably later Wednesday.

The base rate was raised to 10 per cent from 9 1/4 per cent only last Friday, but the previous hike did little to halt the decline in sterling, which has repeatedly fallen to new lows against the dollar in recent days and has also lost heavily against other major currencies.

Sterling, weakened by sagging oil prices, British industrial disputes and soaring money supply figures, suffered most Wednesday

as major currencies again retreated against the dollar.

The pound touched a new low of \$1.2975 in early London trading, but firmed to above \$1.3050 as certainty hardened that British banks were about to raise their interest rates for the second time in a week.

Sterling lost some 13 per cent of its value against the dollar since early March.

"This time, let's hope the banks do a proper job. We are looking for a minimum one per cent rise to support sterling," said one dealer.

With little buyer interest in anything but the dollar, the West German mark was fixed at a 10-year low of 2.844 to the dollar and the Japanese yen traded at around 242.20 — slightly better than its 10-month low of 242.95 to the dollar in Tokyo earlier Wednesday.

The Swiss franc was 1 1/2 centimes weaker than Tuesday at 2.4010 to the dollar and the French franc more than six centimes down at 8.7290 to the dol-

lar. Worst yet to come Dealers said worse was yet to come for world currencies.

The dollar, already supported by high U.S. interest rates and the strong U.S. economy, is likely to receive a further boost from U.S. retail sales, industrial production and producer price figures due later this week.

In addition, the federal open markets committee meets next Monday and is expected to recommend tighter monetary policy, putting further upward pressure on interest rates.

Sterling, on the other hand, was hit by Tuesday's figures showing money supply growing at an annual 14 1/4 per cent, far outside the government's six to 10 per cent target.

British dock unions have begun a national stoppage connected with the 18-week-old coalminers' strike, and the disputes, coupled with depressed world oil prices, have added to the gloomy economic outlook for Britain.

Stock markets were also unsettled by the currency fluctuations.

The Wall Street, Tokyo and Hong Kong averages were all down and the London Financial Times 30-share index was sharply below Tuesday night's close of 793.0, falling to 778.7 in early trading.

Little more than two months ago, the index stood at a record high of 922.8.

Gold, which Tuesday held its price after recent steep falls, resumed its slide Wednesday. It was fixed in London at \$335.75 an ounce, some \$9 below Tuesday's close.

In post-fix trading gold was slightly firmer, but some dealers still predicted it would shortly breach last Monday's two-year low of \$332.25 an ounce.

Traders said precious metal markets were now focussing on silver, which fell sharply to be quoted at around 718 cents an ounce following large scale selling in the Far East.

OPEC allows Lagos to boost output

VIENNA (R) — Saudi Oil Minister Ahmad Zaki Yamani said Wednesday the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) ministerial meeting here had decided to allow Nigeria to increase its oil production in the coming months.

Asked by reporters after the meeting if the ministers had agreed to a Nigerian increase in production of 100,000 barrels per day (b/d) next month and 150,000 b/d in September to be absorbed in the Saudi swing allocation, he replied: "From the ceiling, yes."

Analysts interpreted this as meaning the Nigerians were being allowed the small increase at the expense of Saudi production under its swing-producer role agreed in the OPEC ministers meeting in March 1983.

Asked if he was satisfied with the outcome of the meeting, Mr. Yamani replied: "Very much so." He declined further comment.

Under the 17.5 million b/d OPEC production ceiling Nigeria had previously had a 1.3 million b/d share. Saudi Arabia enjoyed a national quota of 5 million b/d under its swing producer arrangement.

Under this the Saudis would adjust their output to meet any extra demand not met by other OPEC countries to fulfil the overall production ceiling.

Iraqi Oil Minister Qassem Ahmad Taqi said the meeting had

they have been opened production must be maintained," he said.

Libyan Oil Minister Kamel Hassan Al Maqhour, president of OPEC, said Norwegian and British oil production rose by 13.5 per cent in the first five months of this year compared with the same period last year.

Total output by non-OPEC producers rose by only 3.2 per cent, he said.

Mr. Maqhour said Tuesday the actions of Britain and Norway "greatly contributed to destabilise the market and aggravate the situation of oversupply which characterised this period."

On the other hand major oil-consuming nations met Wednesday in Paris to discuss using government oil stocks to stop sudden supply shortages from causing sharp price rises in the market.

The United States has been pressing for more flexible use of stocks controlled by the 21 members of the International Energy Agency (IEA), all industrialised non-communist countries.

An IEA spokesman declined to forecast the outcome of Wednesday's one-day meeting of the IEA's governing board, but said its aim was to complement a 10-year-old supply-sharing accord that would be activated automatically if supplies fell by seven per cent.

The 1979 oil price rise was aggravated by panic-buying when supplies were actually adequate to meet demand.

Top priority was assigned to the issue at an IEA governing board meeting on March 28 following a statement by U.S. Energy Secretary Donald Hodel that he favoured the use of strategic petroleum reserves to restrict price fluctuations.

Diplomatic sources said there was some concern especially by West Germany that a change in policy could erode the IEA's ability to maintain supplies.

Of the 21-member IEA, only the top three industrial powers — the U.S., Japan and West Germany — have government-owned oil stocks.

World Bank to earmark more for family planning

WASHINGTON (R) — The World Bank is to earmark substantial new funding for family planning projects in the next few years, bank president Mr. Tom Clausen said Wednesday.

"Unless we confront this dilemma today, there will be poverty-stricken people in tomorrow's developing world in increasing numbers and indescribable misery," Mr. Clausen said.

He was speaking at a population growth seminar in Nairobi and his remarks were made available by the World Bank in Washington.

The bank has just completed a study of population trends that shows the present global population of 4.8 billion will more than double by the year 2050.

"In the next few years, as part of a major effort involving donors and developing countries, the bank intends to double its population and related health lending," Mr. Clausen said.

For instance, he added, the number of population-related development projects in sub-Saharan Africa would rise from three in 1983 to 21 over the next five years.

Argentina lends Peru \$ 53m

LIMA (R) — Argentina, despite being sunk in a debt crisis of its own, has found enough of its own funds to lend Peru up to \$53 million.

Argentine Foreign Minister Dante Caputo said at the Peruvian foreign ministry Tuesday night that his country would grant Peru a four-year \$40 million loan to buy Argentine foodstuffs.

Argentina, which itself owes foreign creditors some \$44 billion, will also make available up to \$13 million in loans for Peru to continue building a nuclear power reactor, Mr. Caputo said at the end of a two-day visit to Peru.

Mr. Caputo's visit included talks on a forthcoming meeting in

Buenos Aires of Latin American debtors searching for ways to ease regional debt burdens.

Eleven Latin American debtor countries last month urged the U.S. to ease its loan terms at a meeting in Cartagena, Colombia.

Peru and Argentina Tuesday night reiterated the conclusions of the Cartagena communiqué, which included a call for a drastic and immediate reduction in worldwide interest rates.

They both deplored a recent rise in the U.S. prime rate, saying it contradicted an agreement by the June London summit of Western leaders to hold back such increases.

Japan reports record June trade surplus

TOKYO (R) — Japan enjoyed a record \$4 billion trade surplus with the rest of the world in June, partly because of the Los Angeles Olympic games.

The finance ministry said Tuesday exports worth \$14.75 billion were nearly 20 per cent higher than in the same month last year. Imports rose only 3.5 per cent to \$10.72 billion.

The trade surplus in May was \$1.86 billion. Once again, Japan's exports cost the United States dearly because of demand for video tape recorders and colour television sets.

"The sharp rise in exports to the United States reflected strong demand for Japanese colour television sets and video tape recorders because of the Los Angeles Olympic games," Mr. Koichi Tsukihara, an economist with Sum-

itomo Bank, commented. Americans also bought more cars, steel and office equipment and Mr. Tsukihara predicted that the strength of the U.S. economy would further boost Japanese exports.

The June figures took the trade surplus for the first half of 1984 to a total \$13.5 billion, well above the \$7.5 billion of the same period last year.

Japan's surplus for the whole of last year was \$20.45 billion, and economists are forecasting as much as \$30 billion this year.

But, one British economist said here Tuesday, "if it goes on like this we could see \$40 billion."

Exports to the United States for the first six months of this year rose more than 45 per cent to \$27.95 billion while sales to the European Community improved 8.6 per cent to \$9.7 billion.

Western countries have repeatedly urged Japan to quickly stem the flow of exports, either by strengthening the yen to make Japanese products more expensive or by telling its companies here to rein in their salesmen.

Japan has already announced measures aimed at making the yen more popular among overseas investors, and thus more expensive, while Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone last month urged the country's traders to increase imports, especially from the United States and Europe.

Ministry officials said it was not known where Japan would buy coal supplies for a full-scale plant. In the last financial year Japan produced just over 16 million tonnes of coal itself and imported almost 79 million tonnes.

Oil from coal project Meanwhile, Japan, which imports almost all its oil, is setting up an oil-from-coal project, the government said Wednesday. The international trade and

industry ministry said about 20 major companies were joining the 100 billion yen (\$417 million) undertaking and the government would provide 90 per cent of the cost.

The first stage of the project would be a pilot plant for coal liquefaction to be completed in 1990, the ministry said.

This would be followed by a demonstration plant capable of processing 30,000 tonnes of coal a day, paving the way for commercial production, possibly by the end of the century.

Ministry officials said it was not known where Japan would buy coal supplies for a full-scale plant.

In the last financial year Japan produced just over 16 million tonnes of coal itself and imported almost 79 million tonnes.

Turkish inflation rate drops ANKARA (R) — Turkish wholesale prices, the government's main inflation indicator, rose 4.7 per cent in June compared with 7.4 per cent in May, according to official figures published Wednesday. State statistics institute reported an annual rise of 58.2 per cent in the year to June, a slight easing from 59.4 per cent in the 12 months to May. It was the first time the figures showed an improvement since March this year, when the annual rate stood at 44.3 per cent.

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Equities closed sharply lower after expectations of a rise in base rates were confirmed. Leading clearing banks set their lending rates at 12 per cent against 10 per cent previously, putting on 2 1/4 points since last Friday. At 1530 hours the F.T.S.E 100 index was down 15.2 at 999.2 and the F.T. 30 index was 11.9 lower at 781.1 at 1500 hours.

Government bonds reversed early 1/4 point falls, rising sharply on the base rate news and an ensuing rally in sterling, with the trade weighted index gaining 0.4 to close at 77.6. The government issued £600 million of "taplets" for trading July 13 after the 10 per cent conversion 2002 taplet was exhausted at 89 1/2.

Banks recovered from early weakness on the base rate news, with Barclays up 2p to 462 and Natwest 5p higher at 599 after 587. Discount houses were sharply lower in reaction to higher U.K. money market rates, dealers said. Union discount shed 25p to 638 and Seccombe and Marshall 20p to 290.

Oils were lower and showed little reaction to news OPEC ministers decided to maintain current oil pricing and output ceilings. B.P. ended 6p down at 435 but Enterprise Oil rose to 99p from its opening 96 on fresh bid speculation after Tuesday's temporary suspension at the close of RTZ's tender offer. North Americans were lower and gold shares above their lows.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

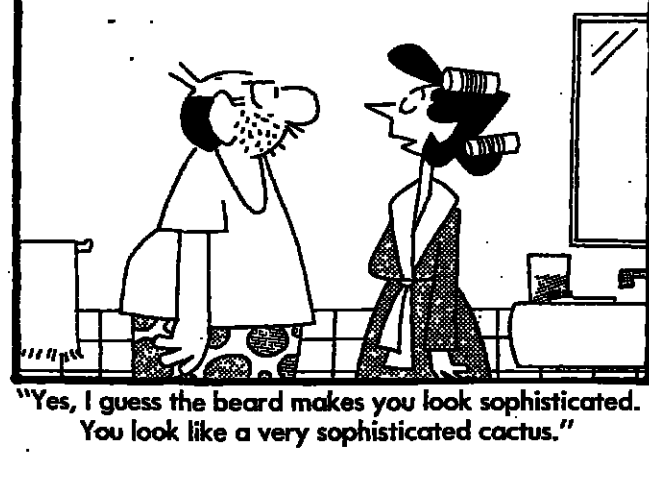
LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

One sterling	1.3055/65	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.3313/16	Canadian dollars
	2.8437/47	West German marks
	3.2090/2100	Dutch guilders
	2.4000/10	Swiss francs
	57.73/76	Belgian francs
	8.7240/90	French francs
	1742.25/1743.25	Italian lire
	242.10/20	Japanese yen
	8.3050/3100	Swedish crowns
	8.1925/1975	Norwegian crowns
	10.3975/4075	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	337.00/338.00	U.S. dollars

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris

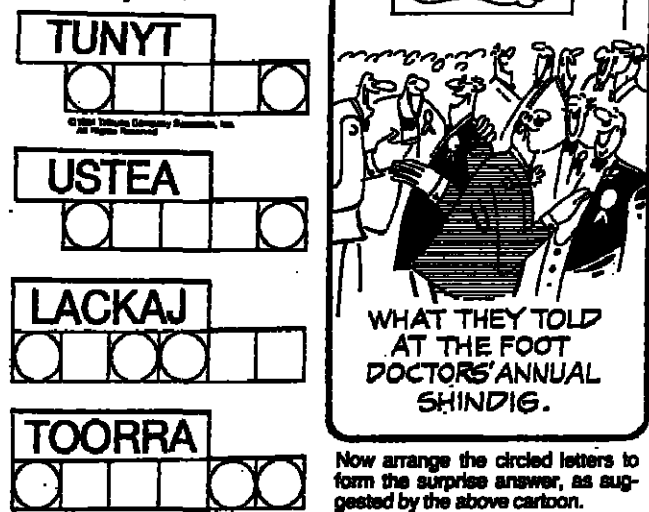
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JUMBLE.

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: "FOOT DOCTORS' ANNUAL SHINDIG" (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: SINGE DOUGH CEMENT SINFUL. Answer: The trombone player was fired because he did this—LET THINGS SLIDE

Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, JULY 12, 1984

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Today's oncoming full moon gives you a big chance to get all of your worldly and practical affairs on a secure structure; this is aided by those in position of prominence.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) A good day to contact the most influential persons of your acquaintance and gain their support so you can reach your goals faster.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Be alert to the opportunities around you so that you can advance in your career. Making new contacts will add to your knowledge.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Concentrate on the finest way to add to present income and property and have a more secure foundation to build for the future.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Stop being nervous and be more cooperative with your partners and get fine results now. Make the evening a happy one.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) You like to think big and get into magnificent projects, but today is best for handling details thereof. Relax tonight.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Concentrate on the cost of any entertainment you want to indulge in and then you can make the right arrangements for such.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Bring to mind the promises made to kin and be sure to keep them in a most meticulous way. Forget moochers.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Think over just what you want to say to others and then do so in a plain and concise manner, be it orally or in writing.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) You can solve practical and financial problems very well, so put your mind to it early and do so conscientiously.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Do some clever angling and gain those personal wishes that are yours, so concentrate on own affairs exclusively.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) You are naturally gregarious but now should concentrate on the practical and building up your assets.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Listen to the advice of a friend who means well, but accept only the best of such. Stop all that daydreaming.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he or she will be capable of knowing what the needs and desires of the public in general are and would do very well in any capacity that will serve said public. One who will appeal to persons in very high brackets. Teach during childhood not to boss playmates around but to be more cooperative.

"The Stars impel; they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you!
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FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, JULY 13, 1984

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The daytime finds it necessary for you to use extreme care where your career and credit is concerned, so do nothing that can lessen your standing in the community.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Get your regular work done very well today and gain more benefits from it, then you can have a happy time in the evening.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Don't take any risks with that new venture you think will be so great, and tonight you can get off to a good time.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Study your responsibilities and handle them in a meticulous, sure way. Don't argue with your mate in the morning.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Avoid any arguments with outsiders and maintain the peace. Tonight you can get some interesting work done well.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Get your work done in a most accurate way in the daytime, and tonight meet with associates. Take any necessary health treatments.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Take care you do not get into amusements that are more expensive than you can afford. Plan the coming week's activities.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Study home conditions and know how to improve them quietly, then tonight be with good friends at entertainments.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) You have to be careful with regular allies today and don't speak unkindly otherwise there will be trouble.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Be careful with financial affairs during the day since many mistakes could easily be made. Make phone calls tonight.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) You feel depressed over lack of progress in daytime, but smile in the evening. Rid yourself of personal anxiety.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Every opportunity is yours during the daytime to show you have patience and can solve problems wisely.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Find the right way to assist a friend in trouble who looks to you for assistance. Get your affairs in order in the evening.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he or she will understand what different problems are and should have a fine education in order to know how to solve them wisely. Provide cheerful surroundings for your progeny to grow in, otherwise a depressive can emerge here.

3 Israelis, Nigerian diplomat remanded on kidnap charges

LONDON (R) — Three Israelis and a Nigerian diplomat were remanded in custody Wednesday on charges of kidnapping and drugging fugitive Nigerian politician Umaru Dikko, found in a diplomatic crate bound for Lagos last week.

The four, driven to London's Lambeth magistrates court amid tight security, will appear before the court again on July 19.

Nigerian Mohammed Yusufu, 40, from Lagos, asked for the state to appoint a lawyer, preferably a Nigerian.

The Israelis — Soviet-born Doctor Lev Arie Shapiro, 43, businessman Alexander Barak, 27, and Tunisian-born shopkeeper Felix Messoud Abitbol, 31, said

nothing. Mr. Dikko, a former transport minister and millionaire wanted in Nigeria on corruption charges, was bundled off in a van outside his luxury London home by two men last Thursday.

Within hours, he was discovered unconscious in a crate at London's Stansted Airport, ready to be flown out of the country. The Nigerian government has now demanded his extradition.

The extradition demand, in a surprise statement by Acting Foreign Minister Abdullahi Ibrahim Tuesday night, was viewed in Lagos as a counter to Britain's request to question staff at the Nigerian High Commission (embassy) in London over the affair.

Lagos has denied having had a hand in the attempted kidnap. The crate, with its bizarre human cargo, was marked for the Lagos External Affairs Ministry from its London High Commission.

Mr. Dikko, 45, fled Nigeria within days of a bloodless coup by the military last New Year's Eve which toppled the civilian government of his brother-in-law, President Shugu Shagari.

Described by some as "Shagari's Third Ear," Mr. Dikko was one of the richest and most powerful men in the country, and in charge of rice imports alleged to have made fortunes for middlemen.

He is in hiding after recovering from his abduction ordeal.

British government sources said Nigeria's decision to step up the diplomatic row as a bid by the military, trying to establish its credentials, to be tough with the former colonial power.

Diplomatic sources said some Nigerians will almost certainly be expelled if their government refused to assist police. But they doubted whether Britain would go so far as to break off relations with its biggest trading partner in Black Africa.

Taiwanese rescuers find 5 survivors in mine

TAIPEI (AP) — Five miners were rescued Wednesday from a coal mine where they were trapped Tuesday by a fire, raising hopes of finding other survivors among 115 still in the mine.

Officials said, meanwhile, the bodies of four dead miners had been recovered.

Two of the rescued miners were in critical condition, suffering from carbon monoxide poisoning and wounds suffered when the tunnel in which they were working collapsed during the fire, officials said.

Officials said the five were located after rescuers dug through a segment of the collapsed tunnel and heard cries for help. The miners and their dead companions were close together, officials said, and rescuers were hopeful that they might find other miners alive elsewhere in the tunnel.

They said all were unconscious when brought to the surface.

A police spokesman said there was pandemonium and confusion at the mine after the first survivor appeared.

Scores of ambulances and more than 1,000 rescuers are working there. It is very confused down there at the moment and no one knows any numbers," he said.

Rescue teams earlier reported they were battling dense smoke and carbon monoxide in the race to reach the miners, who had been trapped 2,000 metres underground after Tuesday's fire.

Re-inforcements were sent down with air compressors and rescuers were ordered to inch their way forward in the hope that the trapped men might have retreated to unknown ducts containing air.

One mining official said before the survivors appeared: "We are not holding out much hope. Logically they were doomed 12 hours ago after the oxygen ran out, but we are still praying for a miracle."

Zia concerned over possible Indian air strike

NEW YORK (AP) — President Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq was reported Tuesday to have expressed concern that neighbouring India conceivably could launch an air strike against Pakistani nuclear facilities similar to Israel's attack against an Iraqi nuclear facilities three years ago.

"It is a possibility," Gen. Zia said in an interview with the Wall Street Journal in Rawalpindi. "Pakistan stands the risk of its very innocent, modest facility being subjected to an air attack by India."

It is a possibility we are hoping will not materialise," Gen. Zia said with strong emphasis on the word "hoping," according to the newspaper.

Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi has said she has "never thought" of such an attack.

While denying that Pakistan is seeking to become a nuclear power, Gen. Zia asserted that India already is "capable of using atomic devices. India has already joined the nuclear club."

He said Sen. Alan Cranston, who earlier this month issued a detailed report alleging Pakistan is on the verge of becoming a nuclear power, "is ill-informed and politically motivated."

Declaring there is "no alternative" to nuclear energy, President Zia Tuesday disclosed that Pakistan now has the capability to enrich uranium but vowed it will never use that expertise militarily.

He said Pakistan is compelled to exploit nuclear technology to stave off serious energy shortages in future and to help bring about rapid industrialisation of the country. "It is our right," he added.

Gen. Zia, in a speech to the federal council said he is against proliferation of nuclear technology for military uses and is prepared under certain conditions to open the country's nuclear facilities to international inspection.

Pakistan, he said, has no intention of exploding a nuclear device even though its new-found capability brings it a step closer to manufacturing a nuclear bomb.

He did not say when the breakthrough in Pakistan's nuclear programme occurred or if it was obtained with assistance from China, as alleged recently by the United States, which has threatened to cut off all foreign aid if it is ever proven that Pakistan is working on a so-called "Islamic Bomb."

Despite repeated statements that Pakistan's nuclear programme was for peaceful purposes only, Gen. Zia said "people like Senator Alan Cranston of the United States continue propagandising against us."

Of Sen. Cranston's recent allegations that Pakistan can now produce six nuclear bombs a year, Gen. Zia quipped: "May God bless him. May it be true."

Indian opposition leaders dismiss official report

NEW DELHI (R) — Indian opposition leaders described as a cover-up an official report on Sikh separatism in Punjab, where three more people were killed in fresh violence Tuesday.

The official document was published as the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported renewed violence and sectarian agitation in Punjab and two of India's northeastern states.

The government blamed Sikh separatists and their network of supporters in Europe and North America for communal slaughter in the troubled state.

A 196-page report entitled "White Paper on Punjab Agitation" said Sikh groups in the United States, Canada, Britain and West Germany backed a Sikh campaign for a separate nation called Khalistan.

Madhu Dandavate, parliamentary leader of the opposition Janata Party, issued a statement saying the report was a "White cover" of what he called government failure to deal promptly with Sikh extremism.

"In time truth will pierce through the White Paper curtain and the real picture of Punjab will emerge," he said.

PTI said two Sikh extremists and a security forces officer were killed Tuesday in a clash at a village near the Sikh holy city of Amritsar.

Quoting police, PTI said security forces exchanged fire with separatist guerrillas in the north eastern state of Tripura where

supporters of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's Congress (I) Party have clashed with those of the state's ruling Marxist Party.

The north eastern states of Tripura, Manipur and Nagaland have been disrupted by a growing guerrilla campaign for independence.

In north eastern Assam, security was tightened as leaders of a campaign to oust large numbers of mainly Muslim settlers launched a four-day picketing of government offices. No violence was reported, PTI said.

Assamese agitation against settlers erupted in widespread unrest last year, when about 3,000 people were killed.

The White Paper on Punjab blamed foreign forces for exploiting communal tensions between majority Hindus and India's 12 million Sikhs.

"A sensitive border state with a dynamic record of agricultural and industrial development would be an obvious target for subversion. In this context the activities of groups based abroad acquire a special significance," it said.

In his statement, Mr. Dandavate said the report hid the fact that India's ruling Congress (I) had supported the Dal Khalsa, led by Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, in previous parliamentary elections, against Mrs. Gandhi's opponents in Punjab.

The White Paper named the Dal Khalsa as one of four Sikh organisations with representatives overseas who had backed the Sikh secessionist campaign.

Ershad to enter politics

DHAKA (R) — Bangladesh President Lieutenant-General Hossain Mohammad Ershad has announced he would enter politics soon to restore democratic government.

"I shall join politics to implement socio-economic reforms and restore the country to democracy after other affairs have been set in order," the military ruler told a meeting Tuesday of former soldiers who fought in Bangladesh's war of independence in 1971.

Gen. Ershad gave no date for his planned move but sources from the government-backed Janadala Party have said he was expected to join the party when he retires as army chief of staff in November.

The president accused the opposition parties of delaying the national elections.

"Opposition for opposition's sake will only jeopardise a transition to democracy," he said.

Both parliamentary and presidential elections were to be held on May 27 but Gen. Ershad postponed them until late this year or early next year after politicians demanded that martial law be ended before the polls and that neither the president nor his ministers contest them.

Gen. Ershad seized power in a bloodless coup in March, 1982. He later promised to end military rule and return power to civilian representatives.

Jane's says Soviet base blast killed at least 200

LONDON (R) — A British defence magazine said Tuesday that huge explosions at a Soviet naval base in May killed at least 200 personnel and crippled the powerful Northern Fleet for the next six months.

Jane's Defence Weekly, usually regarded as reliable on defence matters, said it was the greatest disaster in the Soviet Navy since World War II.

Jane's said the missile storage facility at the Severomorsk base on the Kola peninsula blew up on May 13 in a series of vast explosions, and the ensuing fire raged for five days.

"As a result the 150-ship Northern Fleet, the most powerful in the Soviet Navy, will not be a viable force for the next six months," the magazine said.

"It is also conservatively estimated that it will be two years before the facility is fully operational again."

U.S. officials who first reported the blast last month initially thought a nuclear warhead had accidentally exploded. The Soviet Union has never admitted any disaster at the base.

Jane's, in what it called the most detailed account so far, said at least 200 people were killed and a similar number hurt.

areas of damage were: — The stores area for most of the fleet's surface-to-air missiles and surface-to-surface weapons.

— The explosive components storage area containing all non-nuclear warheads, missile fuel and other sensitive parts.

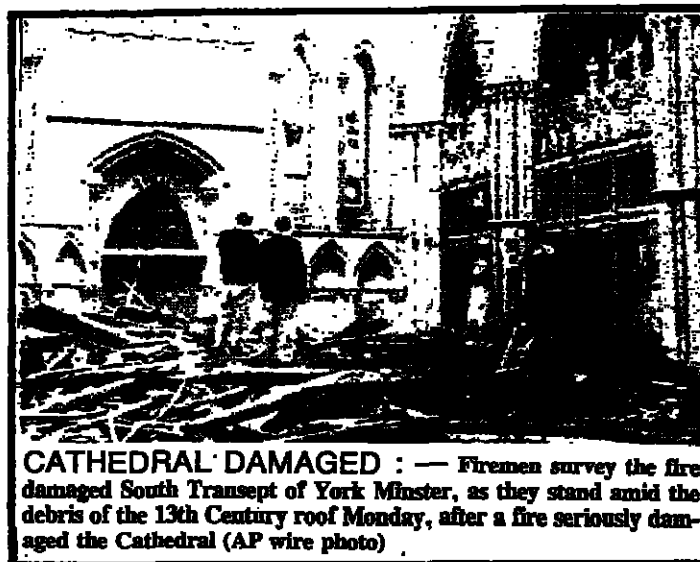
— The naval ammunition storage depot.

Jane's said a number of buildings and bunkers were obliterated entirely, a further 12 were heavily damaged and 12 storage sheds disappeared completely.

It listed about 580 of the fleet's stock of 900 SSN-1 and SSN-3 missiles destroyed, together with nearly 320 of the 400 stored SSN-3s and SSN-12s and the whole stock of 80 new SSN-22 surface-to-air missiles which became operational only last year. An indeterminate number of SSN-19 missiles were destroyed.

Jane's said three of six missile bunkers for submarines were damaged. But the SSN-17 missiles for the Yankee-class submarines were not affected as they were stored deep in mountain vaults.

The weekly said the losses meant the Northern Fleet could not re-arm its 148 surface ships once all the onboard missiles in the vessels' magazines had been expended.



CATHEDRAL DAMAGED: — Firemen survey the fire damaged South Transept of York Minster, as they stand amid the debris of the 13th century roof Monday, after a fire seriously damaged the Cathedral (AP wire photo).

Rev. Jackson hits out at Mondale, Jewish leaders

LOS ANGELES (R) — Black Democratic presidential contender Jesse Jackson said in an interview Tuesday Walter Mondale was refusing to consider him as vice-presidential running-mate, partly because of pressure from Jewish leaders.

The Los Angeles Times quoted Rev. Jackson as saying in an hour-long interview that Mr. Mondale — virtually assured of the Democratic nomination at next week's party convention — should have considered him a prime candidate for running mate.

Citing his strong showing in party primary elections in the south, Rev. Jackson said that "if there was any scientific basis for making a vice-presidential choice, it would be me."

The civil rights leader suggested two reasons why Mr. Mondale had shunned him, according to the interview.

He said the former vice-president might not be genuinely interested in a black running mate and that Mr. Mondale was under pressure from Jewish leaders opposed to Rev. Jackson's use of the word "hymies" to describe Jews.

Rev. Jackson said that "the threats to Mondale by a significant number of Jewish leaders are very evident."

Rev. Jackson said there was a "struggle by Jewish leaders to make me a pariah and isolate our support, attempt to separate me from the masses."

T. J. Gates said Rev. Jackson accused Gary Hart, another rival for the nomination, of committing "a serious act of racism" by closing accounts at a Washington

bank in 1983 when he learned it was owned by Arab investors.

The paper quoted Rev. Jackson as saying Sen. Hart's actions were blatant, intentional and political, and therefore worse than the "hymies" comments.

Referring to the statements about "hymies," Rev. Jackson said: "When I made a mistake in casual conversation that had no political or religious overtones, it was turned into an attack as if I went on a tirade or something."

Meanwhile, Senator Dale Bumpers of Arkansas Tuesday withdrew as a possible vice-presidential running-mate for Mr. Mondale.

Sen. Bumpers said in a statement that Mr. Mondale had asked him to think about the matter seriously.

"Unprecedented danger"

NEW YORK (AP) — Senator Gary Hart said Tuesday that the re-election of U.S. President Ronald Reagan would bring "a time of unprecedented danger" marked by regional conflicts that "could all too easily... escalate to a nuclear showdown."

In a speech at the Centre for International Studies of Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia, Sen. Hart said Mr. Reagan is substituting "rhetoric for results" to mask foreign policy failures in Central America, the Mideast and arms control.

The Colorado senator said Mr. Reagan "has increased Soviet interference around the world, strained our relations with our European and other allies, and failed to achieve any arms control successes whatever."

COLUMNS 7 & 8

Anne's marriage worries Queen

LONDON (R) — Buckingham Palace declined to comment on a newspaper report Wednesday that the 10-year-old marriage of Queen Elizabeth's daughter Princess Anne and Captain Mark Phillips was in trouble. The Sun newspaper report said there was a loveless union between the couple and suggested the queen and her husband Prince Philip were deeply concerned. The mass-circulation Tabloid newspaper said the princess, who will be 34 next month, and Mark led virtually separate lives but that the queen had ruled they must keep up appearances in public for the sake of their children, Peter, six, and three-year-old Zara. "However, the crisis will come out in the open when Anne and Mark go to Los Angeles for the Olympic Games, which begin on July 28," it said. "They will stay in separate hotels for the whole of their 15-day visit, admitting to the world what their staff have known for months... that they no longer sleep together," the Sun added.

1955 'murderer', now found innocent

SENDAI (Japan) (R) — A 53-year-old man who spent nearly 27 years on death row was freed Wednesday after a court found him not guilty of four murders committed in 1955. Yukio Saito was convicted of killing a family of four near this northern city and sentenced to death. The supreme court upheld the conviction in 1960. But after further appeals a retrial was ordered in 1979 and started a year ago. On Wednesday the Sendai district court cleared Saito, saying there was insufficient evidence to support a confession he was alleged to have made. In an emotional scene outside the court, Saito embraced his 77-year-old mother and told onlookers: "I have come back from the foot of the gallows."

King Hassan honours Jewish leader

RABAT (R) — King Hassan of Morocco has made David Ammar, president of the Jewish Communities Council, an officer of the Order of Onissam Al Anbi, official sources said Wednesday. King Hassan conferred the decoration on Mr. Ammar at a ceremony in the Royal Palace in Casablanca Tuesday when a number of personalities received awards as part of celebrations marking the King's 55th birthday. Mr. Ammar was responsible for organising a conference in Rabat last May attended by a delegation of 38 Israelis including several members of the Israeli Parliament.

Greek ship, Soviet freighter collide

COPENHAGEN, Denmark (AP) — A Greek liner with 812 passengers aboard sustained only minor damage after colliding with a Soviet freighter Wednesday outside Copenhagen harbour, tearing open the Soviet ship and causing its stern to sink, shipping officials said. There were no injuries. Kim Enrum of the C.Vio Hansen Shipping Agency said the Greek vessel Royal Odyssey was able to sail the remaining five nautical miles into Copenhagen. Per Thorsager-Jensen, managing director of the Christian Jensen Agency, said the Soviet ship Vasya Alekseev lay partly submerged in eight metres of water in the Oeresund separating Denmark and Sweden. Harbour officials said the mishap occurred in calm but foggy waters as the Soviet ship passed north from the Baltic to the North Sea and the Greek vessel south on a voyage from Tilbury, England to Leningrad. Mr. Enrum said the Royal Odyssey apparently rammed its bow into the Vasya Alekseev, opening a hole in the aft section of the hull.

THE WEEKEND CROSSWORD

Edited by Herb Emswiler

By Alfie Miel

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18 Summertime
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20 "Swan Lake"
22 Peter of
23 1891 Garbo
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